

THE GHOSTLY DESTROYER

JULY
46498

GHOUL TALES

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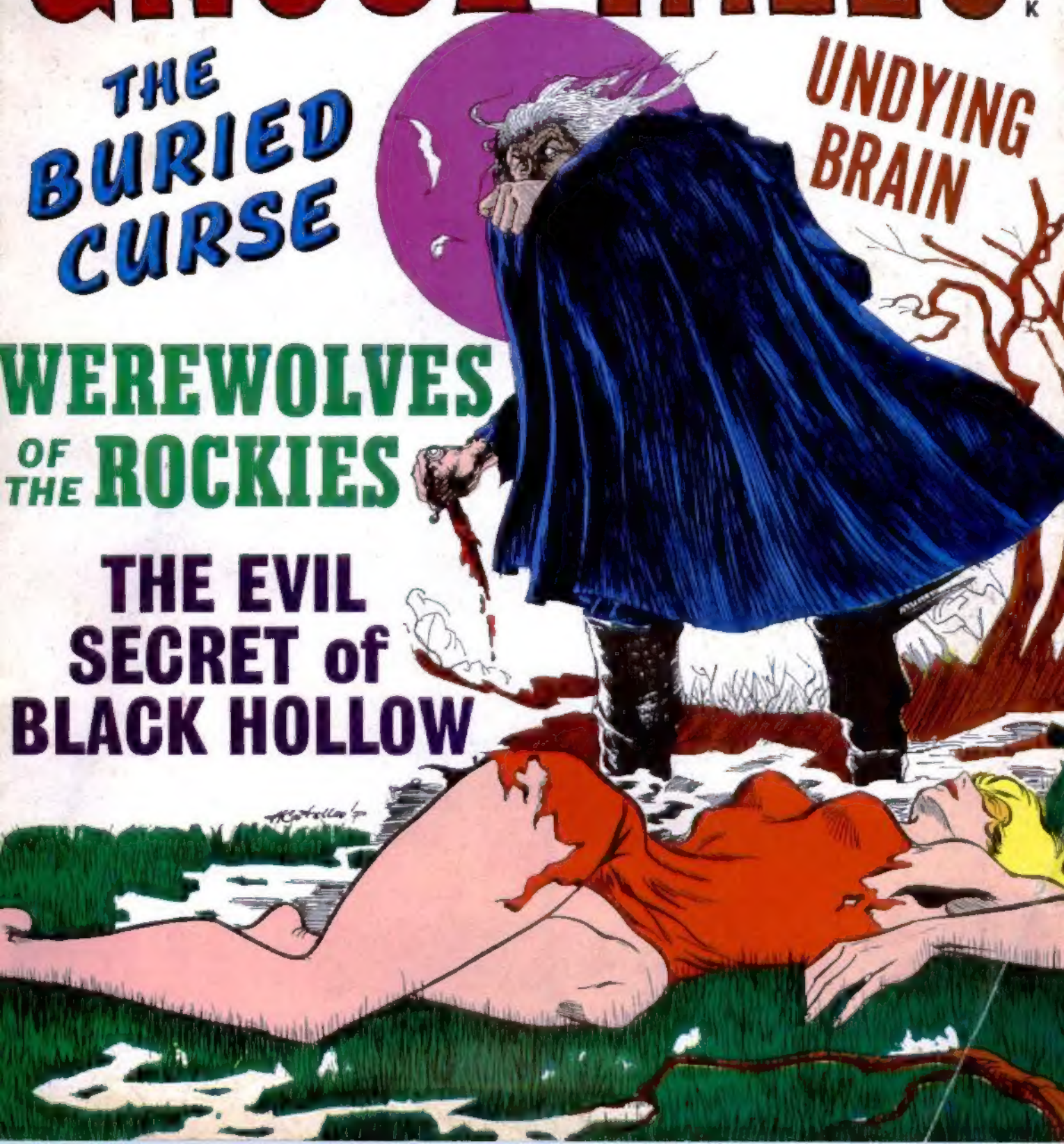
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**THE
BURIED
CURSE**

**UNDYING
BRAIN**

**WEREWOLVES
OF THE ROCKIES**

**THE EVIL
SECRET of
BLACK HOLLOW**



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GHOUTALES

JULY 1971

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 5

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GHOSTLY DESTROYER



SLEEP--- SLEEP, UNSUSPECTING MORTALS OF ARSDALE! DREAM YOUR GREED-FILLED DREAMS OF FAME, FORTUNE AND POWER--- FOR AFTER TONIGHT, YOU WILL DREAM NO MORE! FOR I CAN READ YOUR FACES! THOSE AMONG YOU WHO ARE KIND, VIRTUOUS, I WILL SPARE--- BUT THOSE WHO ARE TAINTED WITH THE SLIGHTEST TRACE OF EVIL MUST DIE BY MY HAND!

BUT NOT ALL ARE ASLEEP IN THE SMALL, PEACEFUL TOWN OF ARSDALE, ON THE BANKS OF THE TRANQUIL HUDSON...

THIS'LL BE THE EASIEST HOUSEBREAKIN' JOB WE EVER PULLED! HEY! --YUH'RE LETTIN' ME SLIP!

L-LOOK!



DIE---DIE!



THERE -- THE EARTH IS RID OF TWO OF ITS FOULEST CREATURES! BUT NOW TO GO FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE, JUDGING ALL THE INHABITANTS BY THEIR MOST SECRET THOUGHTS -- THOUGHTS WHICH I ALONE CAN READ! AND IF THERE IS EVIL IN THEIR THOUGHTS -- THEY DIE! THEIR FACES -- I CAN TELL IN THEIR FACES --



OHHH!

YOU ARE GOOD -- YOUR INMOST THOUGHTS SHOW NOTHING BUT MOTHERLY KINDNESS -- YOU I WILL SPARE! BUT I MUST GO ON -- ON --



BUT IN THE NEXT HOUSE ...

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR A SPECIAL EMERGENCY FLASH! ALL ARSDALE INHABITANTS ARE URGENTLY REQUESTED TO HIDE THEIR FACES -- IN TOWELS, SHEETS, BLANKETS, ANYTHING! COVER FACES OF SLEEPING CHILDREN! A STRANGE, GHOSTLY DESTROYER IS ON THE LOOSE TONIGHT!



WE REPEAT -- ALL RESIDENTS OF ARSDALE ARE WARNED TO COVER THEIR FACES -- IMMEDIATELY!

MOMMY, WHY DID YOU WAKE ME UP? ARE WE PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK?

YES, DARLING, WE'RE HIDING -- BUT WE MUSTN'T LOOK AT THE PERSON WHO'S TRYING TO FIND US!



WE REPEAT --

DIABOLICAL, CUNNING MORTALS!

I CAN'T DESTROY YOU UNTIL I LOOK AT YOUR FACES, READ YOUR THOUGHTS! BUT I CAN'T UNCOVER YOUR FACES WITHOUT TOUCHING AND DESTROYING YOU -- BECAUSE MY TOUCH MEANS DEATH!

I WILL HAVE TO GO ON -- FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE -- SEARCHING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HEARD THE RADIO WARNING -- FOR THOSE WHOSE FACES WILL REVEAL THE EVIL THOUGHTS WHICH WILL GIVE ME CAUSE TO STRIKE!



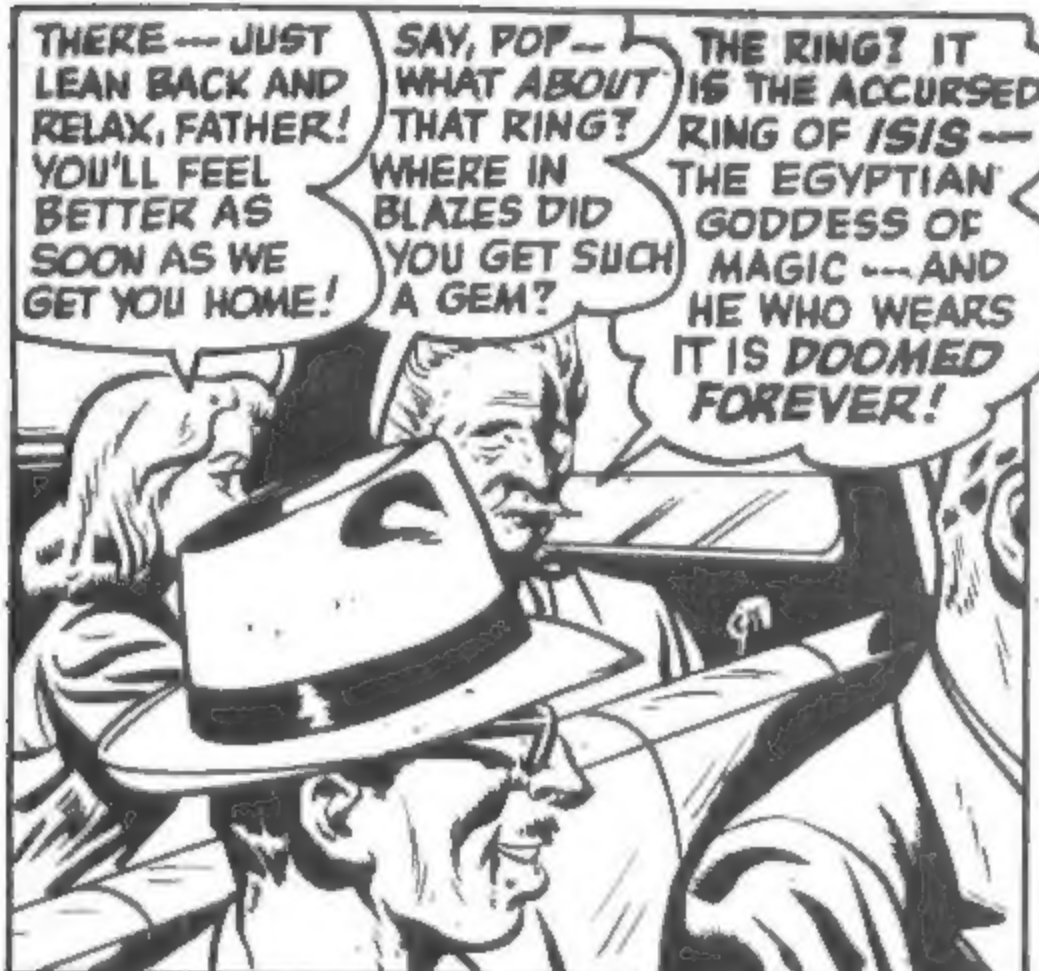
MEANWHILE, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VILLAGE, ON THE BANKS OF THE HUDSON...

ARE YOU GARY HAWTHORNE -- WHO PHONED AND TOLD US TO ORDER THAT EMERGENCY RADIO FLASH -- WHO WARNED US ABOUT THAT GHOSTLY DESTROYER?

YES -- AND I'M THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT GHOST BEING ABROAD TONIGHT ON HIS MISSION OF DEATH! COME IN -- I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT -- BUT BE READY TO COVER YOUR FACES IF THE GHOST COMES HERE!



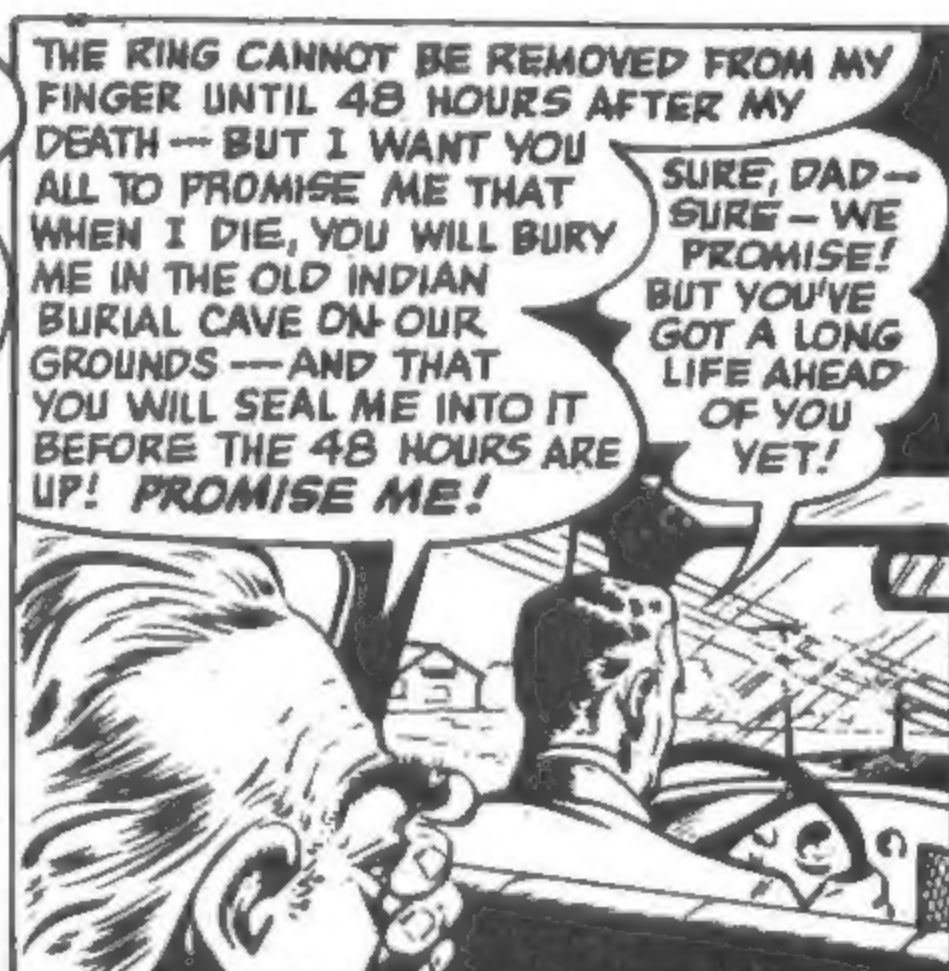




THERE --- JUST LEAN BACK AND RELAX, FATHER! YOU'LL FEEL BETTER AS SOON AS WE GET YOU HOME!

SAY, POP --- WHAT ABOUT THAT RING? WHERE IN BLAZES DID YOU GET SUCH A GEM?

THE RING? IT IS THE ACCURSED RING OF ISIS --- THE EGYPTIAN GODDESS OF MAGIC --- AND HE WHO WEARS IT IS DOOMED FOREVER!



THE RING CANNOT BE REMOVED FROM MY FINGER UNTIL 48 HOURS AFTER MY DEATH --- BUT I WANT YOU ALL TO PROMISE ME THAT WHEN I DIE, YOU WILL BURY ME IN THE OLD INDIAN BURIAL CAVE ON OUR GROUNDS --- AND THAT YOU WILL SEAL ME INTO IT BEFORE THE 48 HOURS ARE UP! PROMISE ME!

SURE, DAD --- SURE --- WE PROMISE! BUT YOU'VE GOT A LONG LIFE AHEAD OF YOU YET!

"BUT WHEN WE GOT HOME, WE SOON SAW THAT DAD'S STRANGE OBSESSION HADN'T LEFT HIM..."

HELP ME UP TO MY ROOM! I... I STILL DON'T WANT TO OPEN MY EYES -- AND TAKE THE CHANCE OF SEEING YOU AS YOU REALLY MIGHT BE!

POOR OLD BOY -- HE'S REALLY ILL!



BUT FIVE MINUTES LATER, AFTER WE'D COME DOWN FROM HIS ROOM...

BANG!

OHH -- A SHOT!

IT'S FROM DAD'S ROOM!



DAD! OH, NO --- NO...

HE... HE'S DEAD! I... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHY SHOULD HE WANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE --- WHAT TERRIBLE THING HAPPENED TO HIM IN EGYPT TO DRIVE HIM MAD?



IT... IT IS A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY --- AND WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT CAUSED IT! BUT WE DO KNOW HE'D GONE INSANE --- AND THERE'S NO POINT TO FOLLOWING OUT HIS CRAZY INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT THE BURIAL OR ABOUT THE RING! IT OUGHT TO BRING US PLENTY!

WHY, YOU HEARTLESS, MONEY-MAD INGRATE! DAD'S LAST DYING WISH IS GOING TO BE CARRIED OUT!

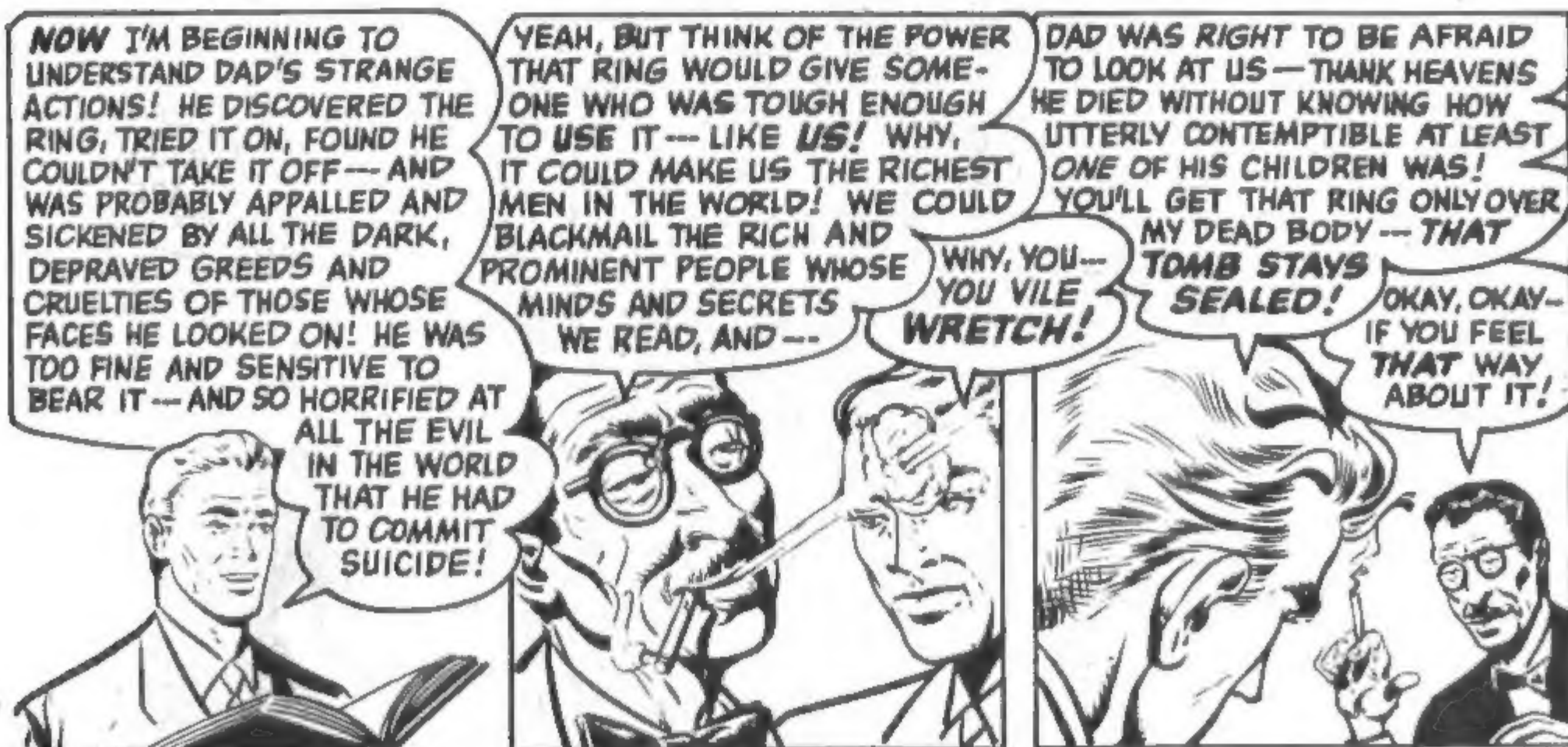


I'M GOING TO HAVE DAD SEALED UP IN THE BURIAL CAVE WITHIN 48 HOURS --- JUST AS HE REQUESTED!

YES! WE PROMISED FATHER WE WOULD!

WELL, ALL RIGHT --- SINCE YOU'RE BOTH AGAINST ME! I GUESS THE OLD BOY'S WILL OUGHT TO SUPPLY ME WITH ENOUGH MONEY, ANYWAY --- BUT IF I THOUGHT THAT KING WAS WORTH MORE THAN A FEW THOUSANDS, NOTHING WOULD KEEP ME FROM IT!





" THEN, AT THE END OF THE CAVE, A GHASTLY SIGHT MET OUR HORRIFIED EYES... "

SHH --- DON'T MAKE ANY OUTCRY, CLAUDIA! JUST... JUST LOOK! IS... IS IT POSSIBLE?

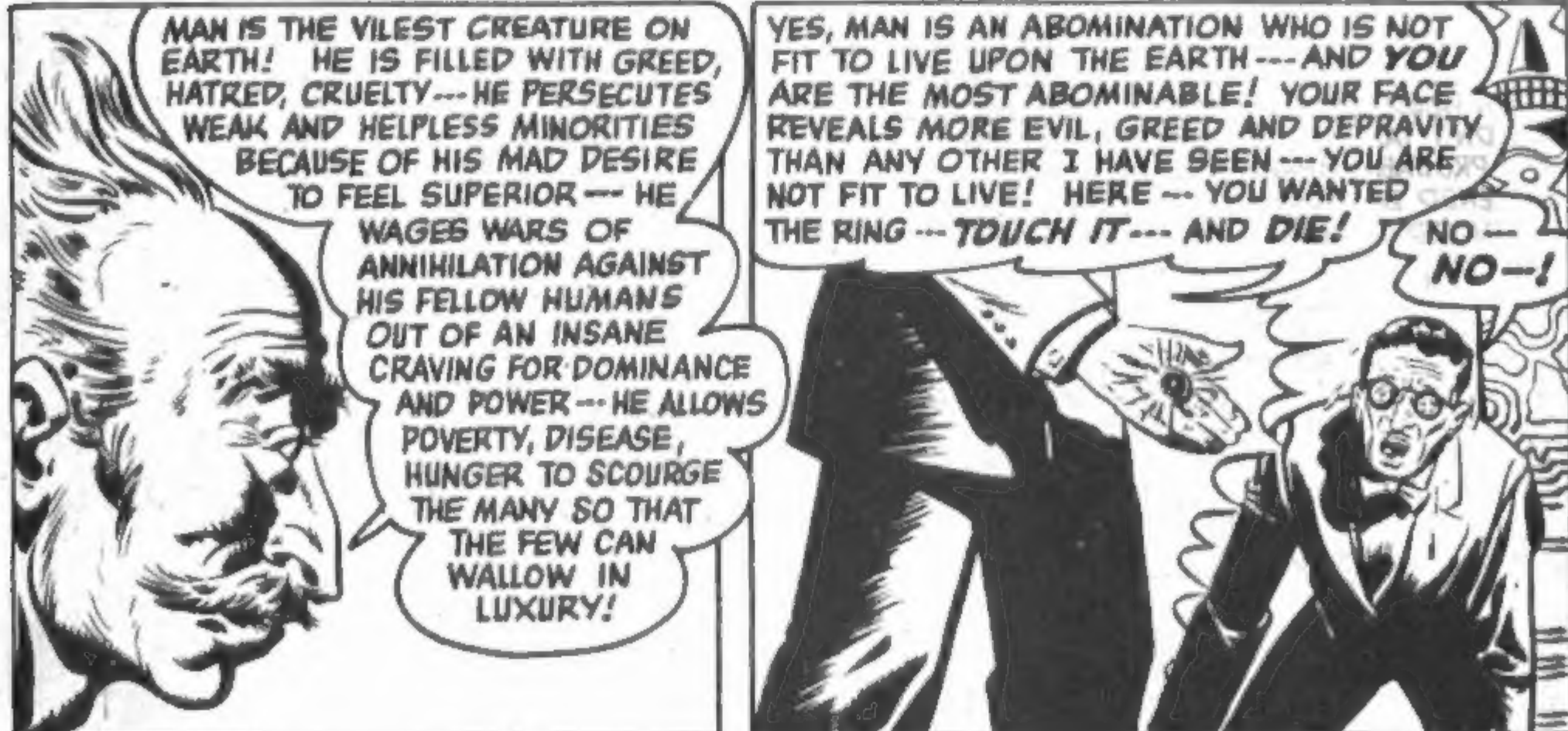
YOU --- MY OWN SON --- TO BETRAY MY DYING WISHES! A THOUSAND CURSES ON YOU FOR OPENING MY TOMB TO THE WORLD! I WANTED IT SEALED BECAUSE THE **RING OF ISIS** GIVES MY SPIRIT ETERNAL LIFE AFTER DEATH --- AND NEVER AGAIN DID I WANT TO GAZE UPON THE FACES OF THE MOST EVIL RACE ON EARTH --- **THE HUMAN RACE!**



MAN IS THE VILEST CREATURE ON EARTH! HE IS FILLED WITH GREED, HATRED, CRUELTY --- HE PERSECUTES WEAK AND HELPLESS MINORITIES BECAUSE OF HIS MAD DESIRE TO FEEL SUPERIOR --- HE WAGES WARS OF ANNIHILATION AGAINST HIS FELLOW HUMANS OUT OF AN INSANE CRAVING FOR DOMINANCE AND POWER --- HE ALLOWS POVERTY, DISEASE, HUNGER TO SCOURGE THE MANY SO THAT THE FEW CAN WALLOW IN LUXURY!

YES, MAN IS AN ABOMINATION WHO IS NOT FIT TO LIVE UPON THE EARTH --- AND YOU ARE THE MOST ABOMINABLE! YOUR FACE REVEALS MORE EVIL, GREED AND DEPRAVITY THAN ANY OTHER I HAVE SEEN --- YOU ARE NOT FIT TO LIVE! HERE --- YOU WANTED THE RING --- **TOUCH IT --- AND DIE!**

NO --- NO ---!



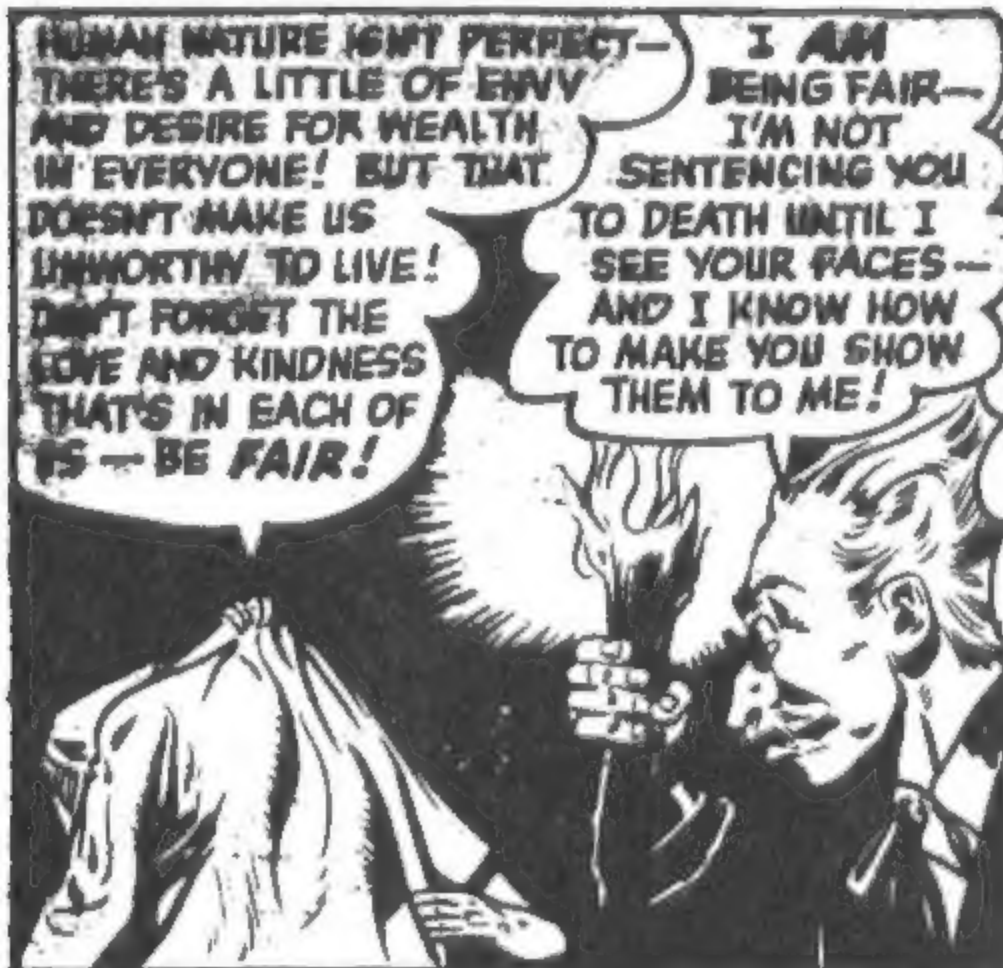
OH, NO --- FATHER --- **DON'T!**

CLAUDIA! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE CRIED OUT --- IF HE SEES US, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'LL FIND IN **OUR** FACES! NOW THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO PREVENT HIM FROM LOOKING AT US ---

SO --- MY OTHER TWO CHILDREN --- YOU WERE PARTNERS WITH VICTOR IN THE PLOT TO BETRAY ME! HIDING WILL DO YOU NO GOOD --- I HEARD YOUR VOICE, CLAUDIA! LET ME SEE YOUR FACES --- SO THAT I WILL KNOW WHETHER YOU ARE FIT TO LIVE --- WHETHER I SHOULD SPARE YOU!

DAD --- LISTEN! YOU CAN'T DO THIS! YOU'RE WRONG! YOU CAN'T JUDGE THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE!





HUMAN NATURE ISN'T PERFECT—THERE'S A LITTLE OF ENVY AND DESIRE FOR WEALTH IN EVERYONE! BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE US UNWORTHY TO LIVE! DON'T FORGET THE LOVE AND KINDNESS THAT'S IN EACH OF US—BE FAIR!

I AM BEING FAIR—I'M NOT SENTENCING YOU TO DEATH UNTIL I SEE YOUR FACES—AND I KNOW HOW TO MAKE YOU SHOW THEM TO ME!



I'M GOING TO VISIT EVERY HOUSE IN ARSDALE, LOOKING AT ALL THE RESIDENTS, KILLING THOSE WHO DESERVE KILLING—BUT SPARING THOSE WHOSE FACES SHOW ONLY PERFECT VIRTUE! AND I'LL CALL OFF MY CRUSADE ONLY WHEN THE TWO OF YOU ARE READY TO STAND BEFORE MY JUDGMENT WITH UNCOVERED FACES! YOU CAN SIGNAL YOUR WILLINGNESS BY LIGHTING A FIRE IN FRONT OF THE CAVE!

GREAT SCOTT! HE MEANS IT!

LET'S GET TO A PHONE, CLAUDIA—IN A HURRY!



AND THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED! AS SOON AS WE GOT BACK TO THE HOUSE, WE PHONED YOU AND TOLD YOU TO BROADCAST THAT EMERGENCY WARNING!

BUT WE CAN'T LET THE GHOST GO ON LIKE THIS—HE MIGHT FIND SOME PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T HEARD THE RADIO WARNING, OR HE MIGHT GET IMPATIENT AND START TEARING THE COVERS OFF PEOPLE'S FACES!

YOU'VE GOT TO LIGHT THAT FIRE AND FACE HIM YOURSELVES!



HE'S RIGHT, GARY—WE'D BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF ANY OF THOSE PEOPLE! WE'VE GOT TO LET HIM JUDGE US!

BUT... BUT WE'RE HUMAN—WITH ALL THE FAULTS AND IMPERFECTIONS OF HUMANS! HE'S PROBABLY SO ENRAGED BY NOW THAT NOTHING SHORT OF IMPOSSIBLE PERFECTION WILL SATISFY HIM—AND NOBODY IS PERFECT! BUT I... I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO RISK IT!



BUT GARY—HOW CAN WE BE SURE THAT NO MATTER HOW HE JUDGES US, HE'LL CALL OFF HIS TERRIBLE CRUSADE AGAINST THE TOWN?

I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT!—WAIT—I'VE GOT IT—THE MIRROR WILL DO THE TRICK! LET'S GO LIGHT THAT FIRE!



LOOK—THERE HE COMES!

IF YOU EVER PRAYED, START PRAYING NOW, CLAUDIA! UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, HE'S GOING TO FIND SOME IMPERFECTION IN US—AND DOOM US!

MOMENTS LATER, AFTER A LONG, BURNING GAZE THAT SEEMS TO PENETRATE INTO THE VERY DEPTHS OF THEIR SOULS...

YOU ARE BOTH COURAGEOUS, SELF-SACRIFICING, CONSIDERATE, WARM-HEARTED—WITH EVEN A TOUCH OF TRUE NOBILITY ABOUT YOU! YOU'RE ALMOST PERFECT, BUT...NOT PERFECT ENOUGH! I'LL HAVE TO TOUCH YOU— SEND YOU INTO THE COLD, IMMUTABLE PERFECTION OF DEATH!

NO, DAD— WAIT!



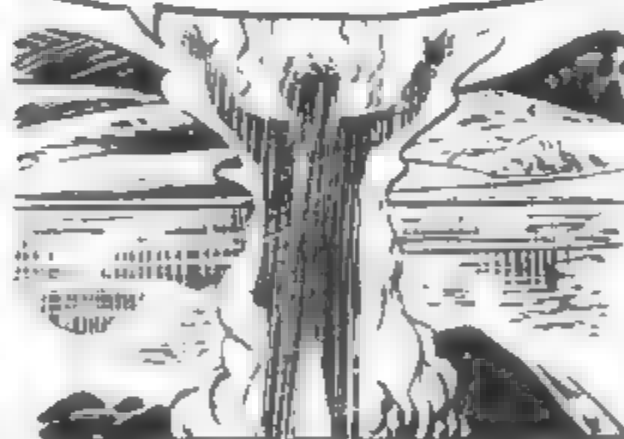
YOU'RE A SPIRIT, BUT YOU'VE STILL RETAINED YOUR HUMAN FEATURES! LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THIS MIRROR— SEE WHETHER YOU'RE NOBLE AND VIRTUOUS ENOUGH TO JUDGE OTHERS AND SEND THEM TO THEIR DEATHS!



NO...NO! CAN THAT BE ME? I...I SEE NOTHING BUT TERRIBLE CRUELTY IN MY FACE... WILD FANATICISM... INTOLERANCE FOR HUMAN WEAKNESSES AND FRAILTIES! I... I DESERVE TO BE DESTROYED!



AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY FOR MY SPIRIT TO BE DESTROYED! AS LONG AS THE RING OF ISIS REMAINS ON MY FINGER AFTER DEATH, MY SPIRIT WILL LIVE FOREVER—BUT AS PUNISHMENT FOR TAKING IT OFF, MY SPIRIT WILL DESCEND TO THE UTTER, FLAMING DEPTHS OF THE WORLD BELOW!— O ISIS, DREAD GODDESS— I REMOVE THY SACRED RING— CONSIGN MY SPIRIT TO THE ETERNAL FLAMES!



OH, GARY— HOW... HOW HORRIBLE!

YES, BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY! LOOK— THE RING— IT'S FALLING OUT OF THE FIRE!

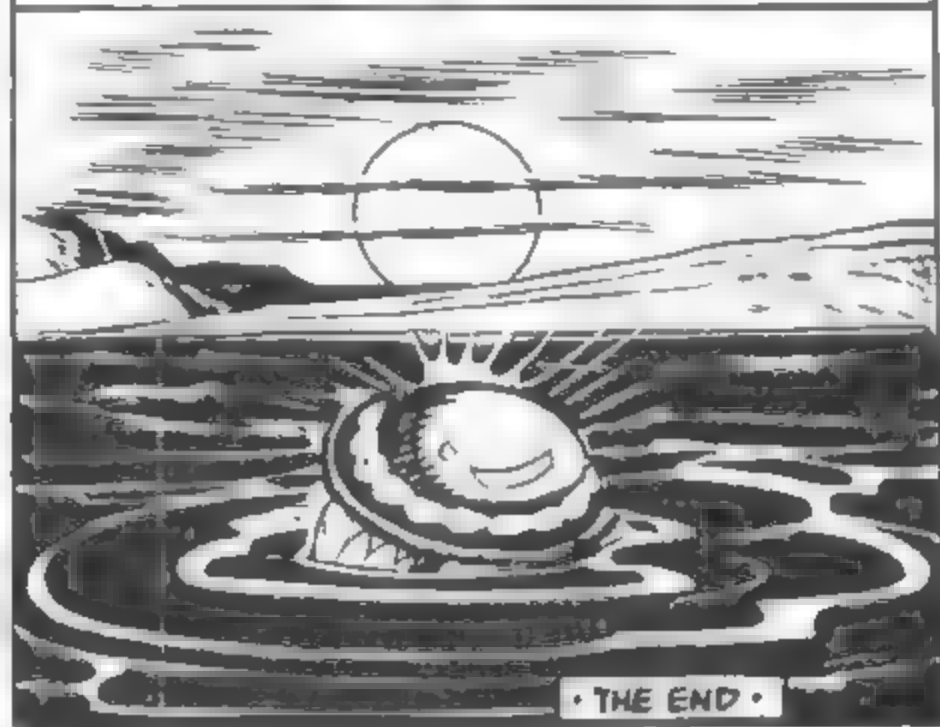
AAAGHH!



IT'S STRANGELY HEAVY— IT'LL SINK IMMEDIATELY! AND THIS WILL MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE EVER WEARS THIS ACCURSED RING AGAIN!



Yes, the ring was strangely heavy— but also strangely *BUOYANT*! And it's either floating somewhere right now, or else it's already been picked up — by *WHOM*?



• THE END •

WEREWOLVES of the ROCKIES

It is reported that in the last century, a werewolf entered this country from Europe! Traced to the trackless forests of the Rocky Mountains, the brute disappeared, and, it is assumed, died! Now, at last, after months of research, this magazine dares to reveal what **REALLY** happened to that soulless monster! Because of the terrifying nature of these facts, all names used are fictitious.

--THE EDITOR



NOT LONG AGO, A FAMOUS SKI JUMPING CHAMPION, LARS NORDEN, WAS ON HIS WAY TO AN IMPORTANT CONTEST--

GOSH, FRIA--IF THIS TRAIN DOESN'T GO ANY FASTER, WE'LL MISS THE MEET!

WE'RE CLIMBING THE ROCKIES--PROBABLY PICK UP SPEED AT THE TOP!

JUST THEN THE ENGINEER SPOTTED A FEARFUL SIGHT DEAD AHEAD--

HOLY SMOKE! LOOK THERE--ON THE TRACKS!

STOP THE TRAIN--QUICK!

SNOWGLIDE!-- AND ONLY FAST ACTION AVERTED A MAJOR DISASTER!

BOY! THAT WAS CLOSE!

CRUNCH!

AS THE FRIGHTENED PASSENGERS CLUSTERED BESIDE THE TRACKS--

WE'LL FREEZE IF WE DON'T GET HELP!

HMM--THERE'S A VILLAGE A DAY'S WALK FROM HERE-- BUT WE COULD NEVER REACH IT IN THIS DEEP SNOW!

BUT SNOW WAS NO BARRIER TO LARS NORDEN, CHAMPION SKIER --

FRIA AND I WILL GO-- IT'LL BE A CINCH ON SKIS!

GOOD! I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE VILLAGE-- ONLY THAT IT'S DUE SOUTH OF HERE!



THROUGH THE DARK, FORESTED HILLS SPED THE YOUNG COUPLE -- ON A PATH THAT LED TO HIDDEN TERROR!

LARS, HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW THESE DOG TRACKS SEEM TO BE HEADING TOWARD OUR DESTINATION?

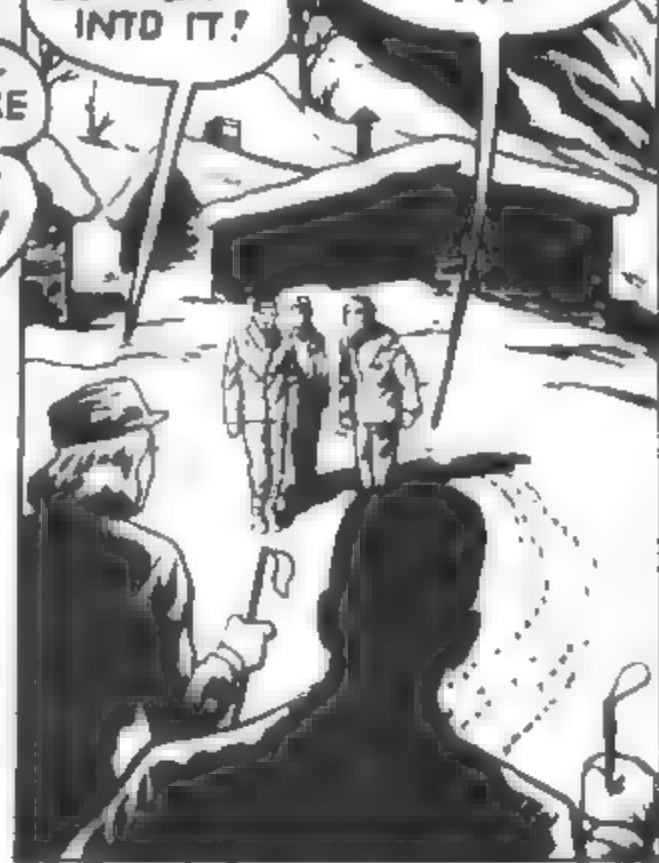
YES-- ONLY THEY'RE NOT DOG TRACKS-- THEY WERE MADE BY WOLVES!



HOURS LATER--

AT LAST-- THE VILLAGE! BUT THE WOLF TRACKS-- THEY GO RIGHT INTO IT!

AND THERE'S A STRANGE ANIMAL DOOR ABOUT THE PLACE! I DON'T LIKE IT!



BUT UNREASONING FEARS WERE LESS IMPORTANT THAN HUMAN LIVES, SO--

AS THE MEN WENT TO COLLECT SHOVELS--

EAGERLY, THE VILLAGERS PUSHED INTO THE FOREST--

-- AND WE'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D HELP US DIG A PATH THROUGH THAT SNOWSLIDE!

SURE, WE'LL HELP-- JUST LEAD THE WAY!



THERE'S SOMETHING EERIE ABOUT THIS PLACE! I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY WOMEN OR CHILDREN AROUND-- ONLY MEN!

YES-- AND THEY SEEM ALMOST HAPPY ABOUT THE STALLED TRAIN!



WAIT-- WE CAN'T MAKE IT BEFORE A DARK-- WE MAY GET LOST IN THE WOODS!

DON'T WORRY! THERE'S A FULL MOON TONIGHT-- IT'LL BE LIKE DAY!



THE WORDS EXCITED THEM INTO A STRANGE, WILD CHANT--

FULL MOON TONIGHT! FULL MOON TONIGHT!-- AND A TRAINLOAD OF HELPLESS PEOPLE-- WAITING!

NOW I'M SURE THERE'S SOMETHING SCREWY ABOUT THIS MOB-- BUT WHAT?



SOON THEY REACHED A LOW RIDGE OF SNOW, AND, UNSUSPECTING, STARTED ACROSS! SUDDENLY--

EYOWW!
A BLIND
CHÉVASSE!

LARS! GO
BACK!

R-R-RUMBLE!



AND NOW, LARS AND FRIA WERE SEPARATED BY A HUNDRED-FOOT DROP!

WE'LL HAVE TO
BUILD A BRIDGE
IN THE MORNING
...YOU TWO GO ON
TO THE TRAIN!

RIGHT,
LARS-- BE
CAREFUL!

CRASH!



WITH AN UNEASY FOREBODING OF DISASTER, LARS RETURNED TO THE STRANGE VILLAGE--

YOU'LL BE-- ER--
SAFE IN THIS
EMPTY CABIN
TONIGHT!

SAFE? I'M
BEGINNING
TO WONDER!



LATER-- UNABLE TO SLEEP, HE CHANCED TO LOOK OUT THE WINDOW--

GOOD HEAVENS--
I'M SEEING THINGS--
I MUST BE!



FOR THERE, BENEATH THE PALE RAYS OF THE NEWLY-RISEN MOON--

THE FULL MOON
RISES-- AND THE
WOLF BLOOD
SURGES IN
OUR VEINS!

OWOOOOOOO!



THIS VILLAGE--
IT'S A COLONY
OF WERE-
WOLVES--
AND THEY'RE
HEADED TOWARD
THIS CABIN!

WITH ONLY SECONDS TO SPARE, LARS DROPPED THROUGH THE REAR WINDOW, SPED FROM THE AWFUL PLACE--

FRIA! SHE'S WITH ONE OF THOSE
FOUL CREATURES-- SOMEWHERE
IN THE FOREST!



AT THAT MOMENT, FRIA WAS CROSSING A MOONLIT STRETCH OF SNOW, CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY HER EVIL COMPANION--

HOW LONG WILL THAT LOVELY MOON BE UP?



RECEIVING NO ANSWER, THE GIRL TURNED, STARED AGHAST--



DID YOU HEAR ME? I-- OH, NO! NO!

-- WHILE FAR BEHIND, LARS CAME TO A HALT AT THE DEEP CANYON--

THEY'VE GIVEN UP THE CHASE!... I'VE GOT TO KEEP THOSE GRISLY BRUTES FROM REACHING THE TRAIN TOMORROW-- BUT HOW?



THOSE SAPLINGS! THEY'RE ALDER TREES-- ONE OF THE FEW THINGS THAT'LL KILL A WEREWOLF! AND THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA! LUCKY GRANDFATHER NORDEN USED TO TELL ME ABOUT THE WEREWOLF PACKS IN THE OLD NORTH COUNTRY!



HE ALSO WARNED THAT ANYBODY BITTEN BY A WEREWOLF TURNS INTO ONE OF THE FOUR CREATURES! I MUST BE CAREFUL!



HOURS LATER, HIS TASK FINISHED, HE RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE -- JUST AS THE SUN ROSE--

WHERE DID YOU DISAPPEAR TO?

THE MOON WAS SO BRIGHT, I-- ER-- GOT IN SOME SKIING PRACTICE FOR THE CONTEST!

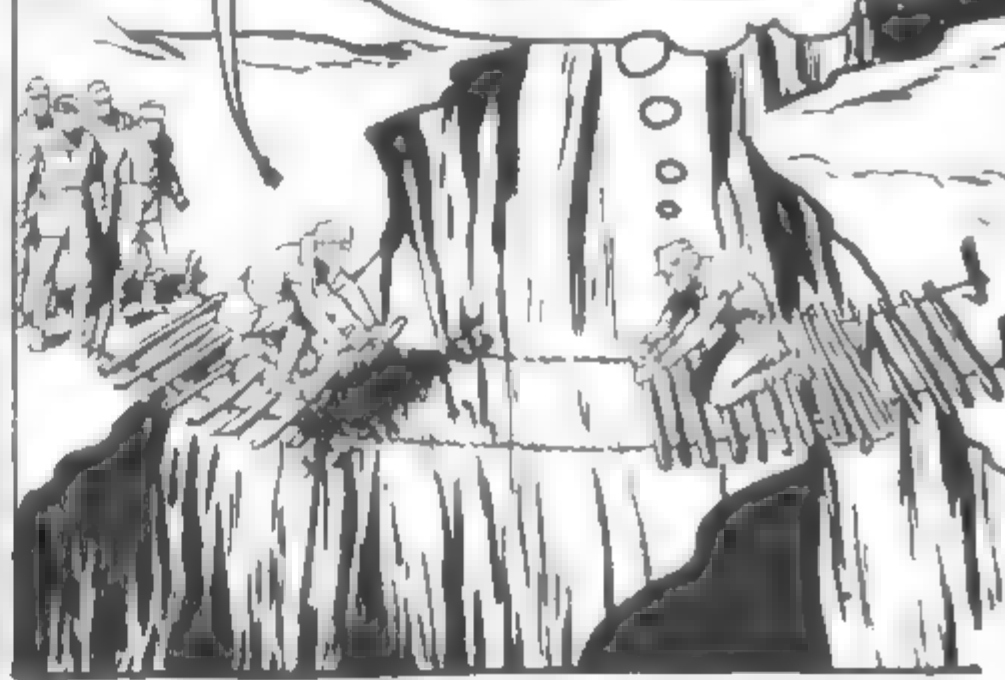
WITH THE MOON GONE, THEY'VE RETURNED TO THEIR HUMAN FORM! THEY WON'T BE DANGEROUS UNTIL -- TONIGHT!



AT ONCE, THE WEREWOLF PACK SET OUT FOR THE CANYON-- AND WORK WAS BEGUN ON A BRIDGE--

HURRY-- HURRY!

IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, ALL THOSE PASSENGERS WILL BE DEAD DUCKS -- AND I'LL BE THE FIRST!



NO SOONER WAS THE NARROW, SWAYING STRUCTURE FINISHED THAN THE WERE-WOLVES, LUSTING FOR THEIR HUMAN PREY, RUSHED FORWARD--



TO THE TRAIN!

OUT OF THE WAY, FOOL!

WITH THE ENTIRE PACK ON THE BRIDGE, LARS LEAPED INTO ACTION--



NOW, YOU FIENDS, DROP DEAD-- AND I'M NOT KIDDING!

SNAP!

AND NOW, THE LONG HOURS OF TOIL BORE GHASTLY FRUIT!



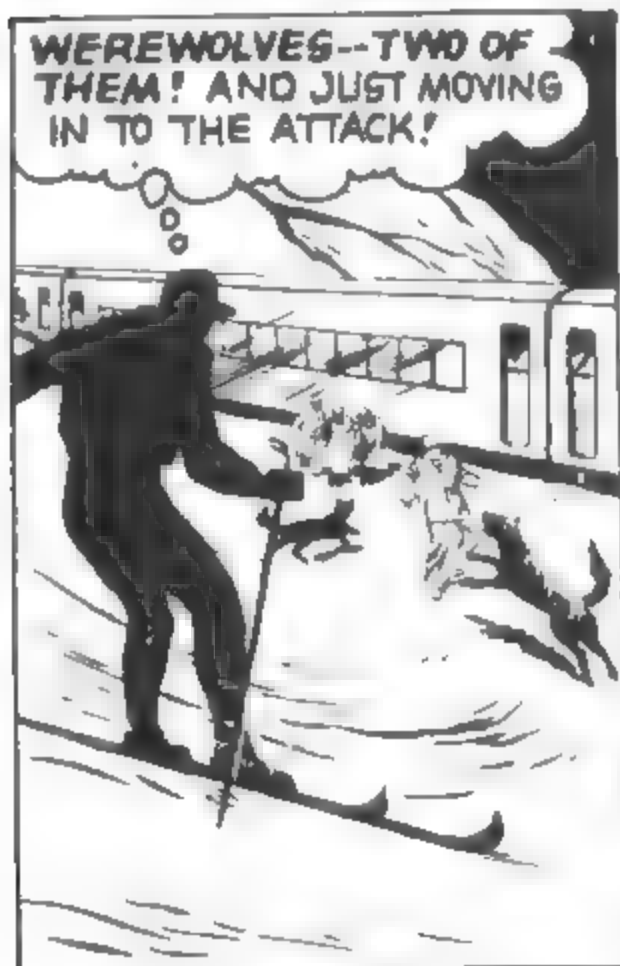
IN DEATH, THEY'RE REVERTING TO THEIR ANIMAL FORMS!

THERE WAS STILL THE CREVASSE TO CROSS, WITH AGONIZING DEATH WAITING BELOW! IT CALLED FOR A CHAMPION SKI JUMPER--



MADE IT! NOW TO MAKE TRACKS FOR THAT TRAIN-- AND FRIA!

THE DAY PASSED AND NIGHT FELL-- JUST AS THE WEARY LARS REACHED HIS GOAL-- ONLY TO BE MET BY HORROR!



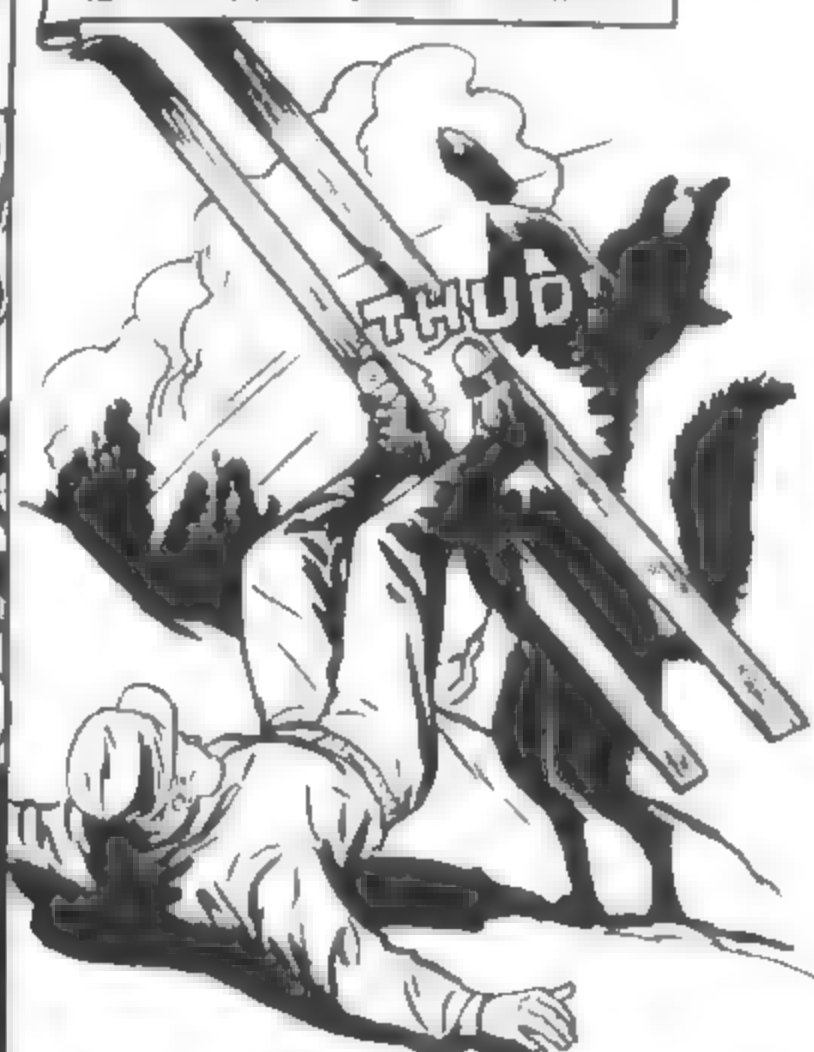
WEREWOLVES-- TWO OF THEM! AND JUST MOVING IN TO THE ATTACK!

OBLIVIOUS TO DANGERS, LARS DREW THE WEREWOLVES' ATTENTION TO HIMSELF--



C'MON, YOU CREATURES FROM HADES-- PICK ON SOMEONE YOU CAN'T SCARE!

AS THE FIRST BEAST LEAPED--



THUD!

CERTAIN THAT LARS WAS DOOMED, THE TERRIFIED TRAINMEN HUSTLED THE PASSENGERS ABOARD, BACKED THE TRAIN DOWN THE TRACKS TO SAFETY--

NOW FOR THE SECOND OF THOSE MONSTERS?



SURPRISE? I MADE THESE SKI POLES MYSELF -- OUT OF ALDER WOOD? NOW TO FINISH OFF YOUR FRIEND?

RR-RROW!



BUT THE FIRST WEREWOLF HAD DISAPPEARED--

NO WONDER! IT'S DAWN--AND IT DIDN'T DARE FACE ME IN ITS HUMAN GUISE? I-- WHAT'S THAT?



HALF-BURIED IN A NEARBY SNOWBANK--FRIA? PAINFULLY, SHE ROSE TO HER FEET--

SHE MUST HAVE FAINTED WHEN THOSE TWO MONSTERS ATTACKED!



THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE SAFE, DARLING! NOW LET'S GO AFTER THAT TRAIN-- IT CAN'T BE VERY FAR BACK!



UNABLE TO LOCATE FRIA'S SKIS, THEY RODE BACK DOUBLE--

--STILL, I CAN'T HELP REGRETTING THAT ONE WEREWOLF ESCAPED!



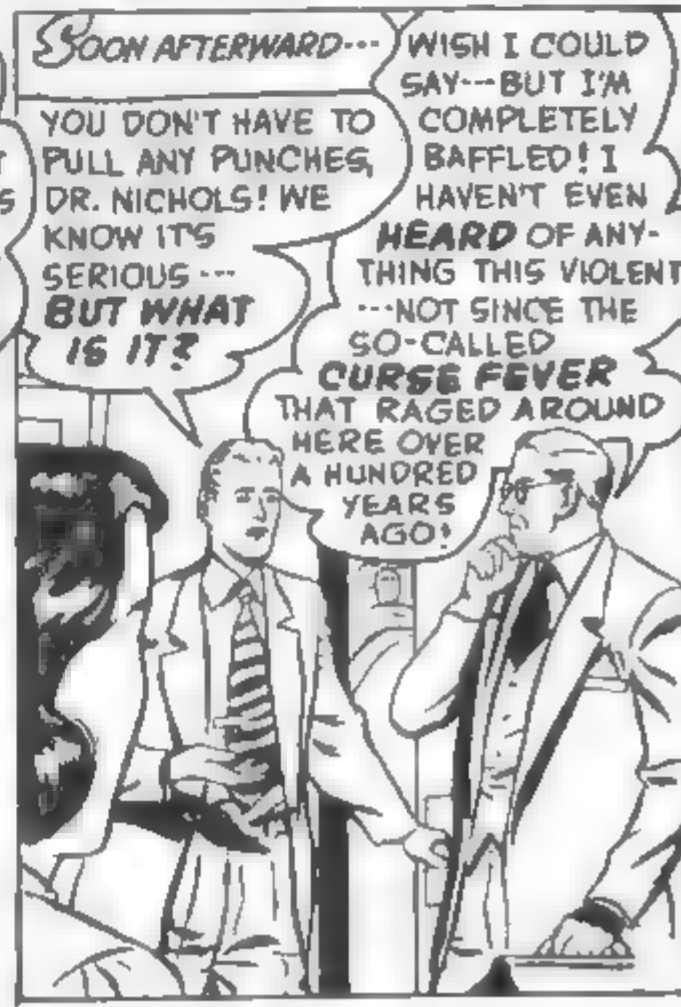
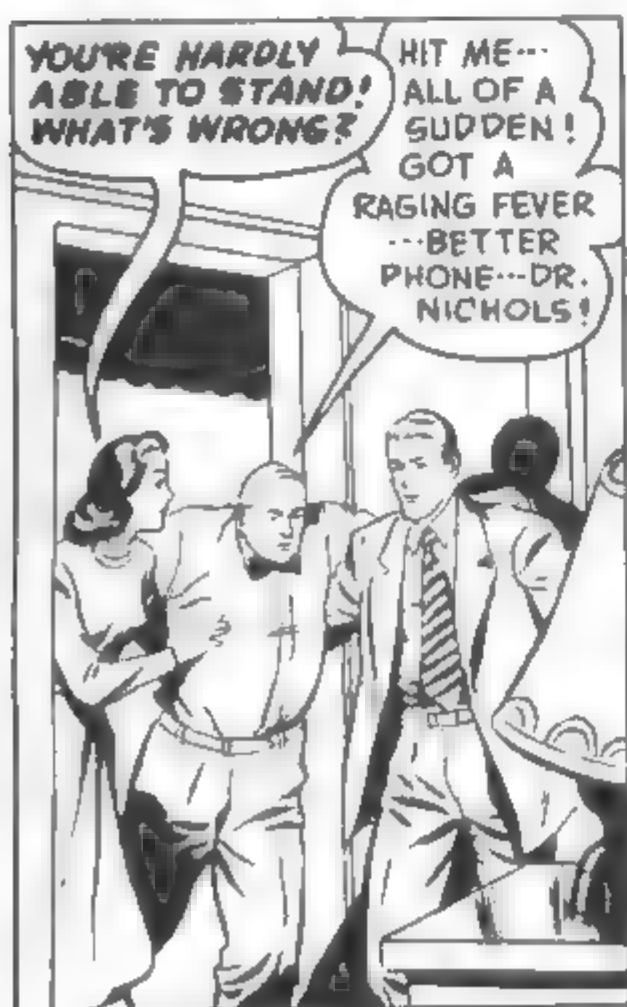
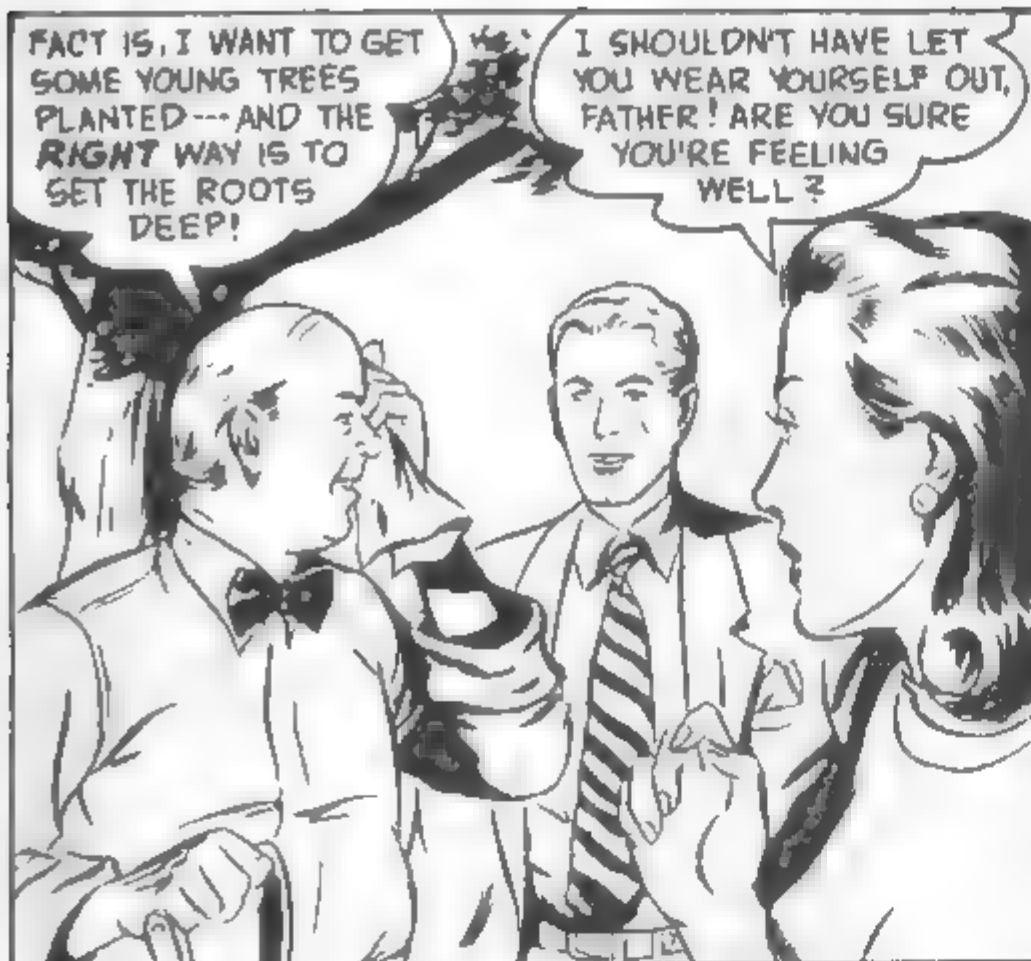
AH, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T! WHO KNOWS, YOU MAY MEET IT AGAIN-- SOONER THAN YOU THINK!



THE END

The BURIED CURSE









SLOWLY...LIKE A CREEPING FLOW OF EVIL...



IN THE NEXT HORROR-LADEN MINUTE...



GOOD LORD, WHAT KIND OF MONSTER ARE WE UP AGAINST... A GHOSTLY FIEND ONE MOMENT... AND A SHAPELESS TERROR THE NEXT!

DIANA, WE'VE GOT TO FACE THE TRUTH... THAT THING ISN'T ACTUALLY WHAT IT SEEMS TO BE! IT ISN'T A MONSTER... IT ISN'T A GHOST... **IT'S GERMS!**



I KNOW IT SOUNDS WEIRD... WHEN PEOPLE ALWAYS FELT THAT THE FEVER VICTIMS HAD BEEN CURSED BY A FIEND! BUT THEIR FEAR-RIDDEN ATTITUDE WAS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF THE TRUTH... **THE REAL EVIL IS A TOXIN CREATED BY A NEW STRAIN OF GERMS!** THE GHOST IS MERELY A MANIFESTATION... A FORM THE GERMS ARE ABLE TO TAKE AFTER DRAINING THE PSYCHIC ENERGY OF THEIR DYING VICTIMS!



THEN THIS HOLE FATHER DUG... GOOD HEAVENS, LESLIE... **WHAT'S DOWN THERE?**

BODIES... BURIED IN A MASS GRAVE! THE GERMS REMAINED DORMANT FOR OVER A CENTURY... BUT THEY'VE BEEN RELEASED, DIANA! THEY'RE READY TO DEAL OUT THE CURSE FEVER AGAIN... FIRST YOUR FATHER... **AND NOW US!**

LESLIE, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE DON'T TALK LIKE THAT... DON'T BE SO HORRIBLY **CERTAIN!**

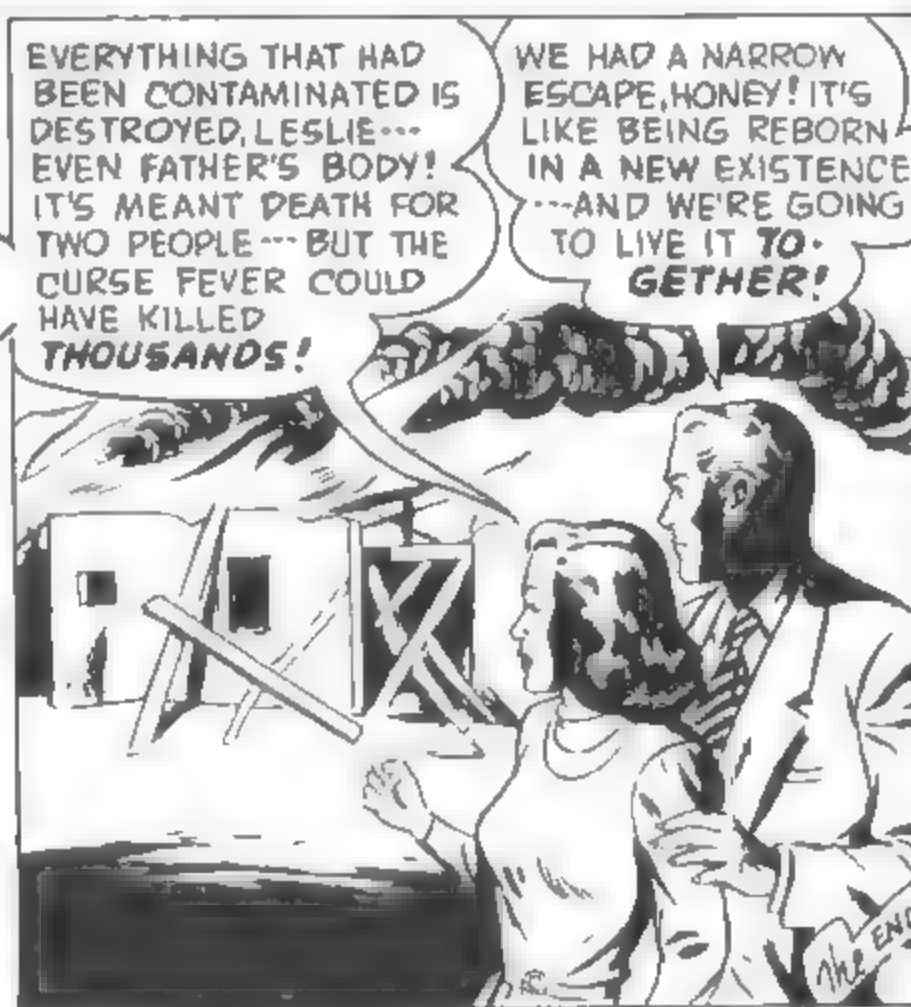
HONEY, I'VE BEEN CERTAIN... **EVER SINCE WE SAW THE GHOST!** WE COULDN'T HAVE SEEN IT WHEN YOUR FATHER DIED... **IF THE GERMS WEREN'T ALREADY IN OUR SYSTEMS!**

I'M NOT GOING TO DIE LIKE THAT... STARING IN TERROR... GASPING HELPLESSLY WHILE THAT THING STALKS CLOSER! WE'VE GOT TO REACH A HOSPITAL... WHY ARE WE WASTING PRECIOUS MOMENTS HERE?

HOLD IT... YOU'RE NOT LEAVING!







IN THE GLOOMY SHADOWS LURKS A HUGE, THREATENING SHAPE! FROM THE MISTY DEPTHS OF MEMORY, IT RISES TO HAUNT OUR DREAMS, EVIL, FORBIDDING-- THE **BOGEY MAN**? AN IMAGINARY TERROR OF CHILDHOOD? OR IS IT SOMETHING EVEN MORE TERRIFYING-- SOMETHING REAL? PERHAPS THE AWESOME ANSWER LIES IN THIS GRIMLY BELIEVABLE TALE OF--

ONLY THE EVIL NEED FEAR THE BOGEY MAN



OUR STORY BEGINS WITH NOTHING MORE HORRIFYING THAN A MOTHER SENDING HER LITTLE BOY OUT TO PLAY--

NOW BE A GOOD BOY, BILLY-- OR THE **BOGEY MAN** WILL GET YOU!

OKAY, MOM-- ME AND THE FELLAS ARE GONNA DIG FOR GOLD!

AND WHERE CAN TERROR BE FOUND IN THE HAPPY VOICES OF CHILDREN?

HEY, FELLAS-- LOOK WHAT I FOUND BURIED UNDER THE ROCKS!

GOSH! LOOKS LIKE A-- BOMB!

AH, BUT CHILDISH CURIOSITY OFTEN LEADS TO-- **TRAGEDY!** STOP, BILLY-- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

LET'S OPEN IT AND SEE!

THIS OUGHTA DO IT!



SUDDENLY, A SHARP **CRACK**
--AND THE MYSTERIOUS
OBJECT BURST OPEN!

THERE'S SMOKE
COMING OUT
OF IT!

LOOK
OUT! IT
MAY EX-
PLODE!



STILL FEARFUL, THE BOYS
PAUSED-- TO MARVEL AT
THE STRANGE MONSTER'S
WONDROUS TALE--

THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO,
I WAS CREATED BY A
NOBLE SORCERER-- TO RID
THE LAND OF EVIL---



WHAT HIDEOUS THING
WAS THIS. WHOSE MASSIVE
FORM CAST AN
ANCIENT SHADOW
ACROSS THE 20TH CENTURY?

RUN! IT'S THE
BOGEY MAN!

HE'S
REAL--
AND I
ALWAYS
THOUGHT
MY FOLKS
WERE
FOOLIN'!



WAIT! DO NOT FEAR ME!
I HARM ONLY THOSE
WHO DO NOT SEE ME!
FOR I AM INVISIBLE ONLY
TO THE WICKED!



"FOR LONG, I DID MY DUTY WELL
--SIN WAS NEARLY ENDED--"

YOU CANNOT SEE ME?
THEN YOU ARE EVIL MEN--
AND SO-- **DIE!**



ARGHH!

"BUT ONE DAY, A BAND OF WICKED MEN DIS-
COVERED THE **ONE THING** AGAINST
WHICH I WAS HELPLESS-- **AMBERGRIS!**
I WAS DRUGGED, IMPRISONED--"

HA! THE AMBERGRIS
--IT WORKS! HE
SHRINKS TO
NOTHING!

IN THIS METAL
SHELL, HE WILL BE
HARMLESS-- FOR
ALL TIME! WE WILL
BURY HIM IN SOME
DISTANT LAND!



BUT NOW **YOU** HAVE RESTORED ME TO
MY ORIGINAL SELF! ONCE MORE I AM
FREE TO HELP DESTROY WICKEDNESS
IN THE WORLD!



GOSH! AN' WE
ALWAYS
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
BAD!

THUS BEGAN A STRANGE FRIENDSHIP, WITH THE BOYS LITTLE DREAMING THAT THEY COURTED DISASTER!

GEE, MISTER BOGEYMAN-- CAN WE HELP YOU FIGHT THE BAD MEN?

WELL, PERHAPS YOU MIGHT POINT OUT WICKED PEOPLE TO ME -- AND LEAVE THE REST TO ME! IT WOULD SAVE TIME!

I'VE HEARD THE MAYOR AND HIS GANG ARE PRETTY DURN WICKED!

GEE, I WONDER WHAT HE'LL DO TO THEM?

OH, PROBABLY SEND THEM TO BED WITHOUT ANY SUPPER -- OR MAYBE EVEN PUT THEM IN JAIL!



AND SO, ON A VACANT LOT THAT RANG WITH BOYISH LAUGHTER, THE SCENE WAS SET FOR A WEIRD KIND OF TERROR!

INVISIBLY, THE MONSTROUS GENIE FOUND HIS WAY TO THE CITY HALL -- THEIR TO BEGIN HIS FEARFUL CAMPAIGN--



HMM-- LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE BUSY HERE!



WELL, BOYS, I SAID YOU'D BE RICH IF YOU STUCK WITH ME! THE SUCKERS AREN'T WISE TO US YET!

ALL WE GOTTA DO IS GET RID O' THAT NOSEY REPORTER, TRENT!



LATER, WHEN THE BOYS READ OF THE POLITICIANS' "PUNISHMENT"--

G-GOSH! I DIDN'T THINK HE MEANT TO-- KILL ANY-BODY!

HE SAID HE'S GONNA PUNISH JAKE HINZ, THE GAMBLER, NEXT! AND I'M THE ONE WHO TOLD HIM ABOUT JAKE!



HORRIFIED AT THE SLAUGHTER THEY HAD LOOSED UPON THE TOWN, BILLY RACED TO SEE HIS FRIEND, REPORTER CARL TRENT--

CARL-- I KNOW WHO KILLED THE MAYOR!

WHAT? C'MON --BETTER TELL IT TO THE POLICE!



WHILE THE POLICE WAITED BREATHLESSLY--

NOW, SON, YOU SAY YOU KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THIS VICIOUS KILLER?

SURE I DO!

IT WAS THE BOGEY MAN!

REMEMBER, CHIEF--HE'S ONLY A KID!

B-BUT IT WAS THE BOGEY MAN--AND HE'S GONNA KILL JAKE HINZ NEXT!

C'MON, BILLY--

MEANWHILE, A SCENE OF HORROR WAS BEING ENACTED NOT FAR AWAY--

SO, JAKE HINZ, YOUR VICIOUS CAREER IS AT AN END-- AT LAST!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, AT HEADQUARTERS--

HEY, CHIEF-- SOMEBODY JUST WIPED OUT JAKE HINZ AND HIS WHOLE MOB!

SEE? I TOLD YOU

HUH?

QUICK-- TAKE ME TO SEE THIS "BOGEY MAN"!

SURE, HE'S AT OUR CLUBHOUSE RIGHT NOW!

ON THE WAY, BILLY TOLD CARL THE BOGEY MAN'S INCREDIBLE STORY-- AND A FEW MINUTES LATER--

IF THERE'S A BOGEY MAN-- OR ANYBODY ELSE-- IN THERE, I'M BLIND! THE PLACE LOOKS EMPTY TO ME!

THEN-- IF YOU CAN'T SEE HIM, YOU'RE BAD! GO 'WAY!

ABOUT TO LEAVE, CARL PAUSED, AS--

HELLO, BILLY-- WHY SO SORROWFUL?

HEY! THAT WAS A BASS VOICE! THERE IS SOMEBODY--OR SOMETHING--IN THERE! BILLY'S STORY MAY BE TRUE AFTER ALL!

FROM BEHIND HIM, ANOTHER VOICE-- THIS TIME A LOVELY SOPRANO--



WELL, I'M SURPRISED AT YOU-- A GROWN MAN SPYING ON LITTLE CHILDREN?

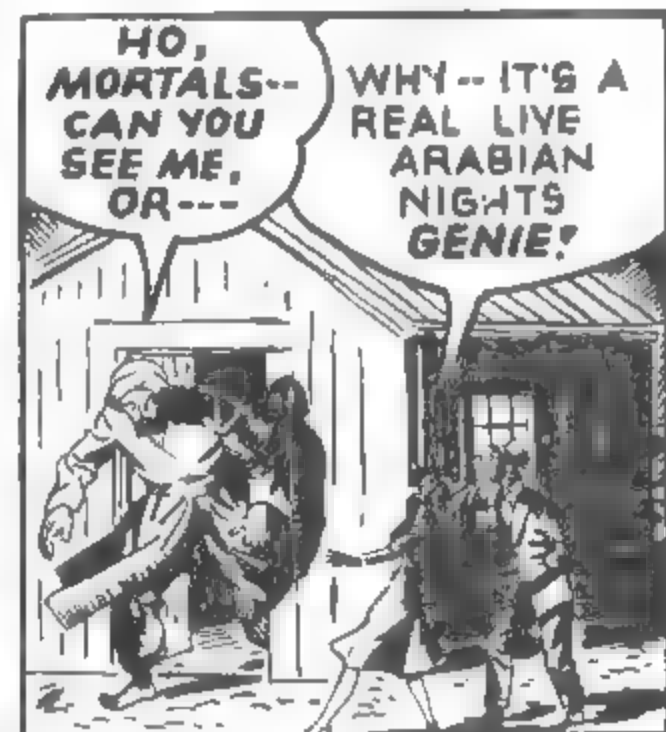
EH? BUT I---

I'M NANCY GEER, BILLY'S TEACHER? HE'S BEEN ABSENT FROM SCHOOL A LOT LATELY, SO I THOUGHT I'D CHECK!



I THINK YOU'LL FIND YOUR ANSWER IN THERE!

BUT TO CARL'S HORROR, THE DOOR SUDDENLY OPENED-- AND A SCREAM OF FEAR TORE FROM NANCY'S THROAT!



HO, MORTALS-- CAN YOU SEE ME, OR---

WHY-- IT'S A REAL LIVE ARABIAN NIGHTS GENIE!

AND THEN CARL REMEMBERED-- THE GENIE WAS INVISIBLE TO THE WICKED-- WHOM HE QUICKLY KILLED!



GOT TO MAKE HIM THINK I SEE HIM-- OR DIE!



WHAT A MONSTER! HORRIBLE!

AH! YOU DO SEE ME! THEN GO YOUR WAY IN PEACE!

LESS FORTUNATE, THAT NIGHT, WERE THE TWO POLICEMEN WHO FAILED TO SEE THE APPROACH OF HULKING DOOM--



HELP!

UGH!

NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL, NANCY AND CARL TOLD BILLY OF THE GRISLY CRIME--

YOU SEE, BILLY, TIMES HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE BOGEY MAN WAS YOUNG! WHAT WAS EVIL IN HIS DAY IS NO LONGER EVIL-- EXCEPT TO HIM! SO-- IF HE KEEPS THIS UP, HE'S GOING TO KILL OFF EVERYBODY EXCEPT THE KIDS!

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! MISS GEER AIN'T A KID-- AND SHE CAN SEE HIM!



1-2-3-4

ER-- MISS GEER IS A
TEACHER-- SHE UNDERSTANDS
KIDS... HER HEART IS THE
HEART OF A CHILD! BUT--
THERE AREN'T
MANY LIKE
HER!

WELL, KIDS ARE
OKAY--
BUT WE'D
HAVE A
TOUGH TIME
WITHOUT
PEOPLE,
I GUESS! WHAT'LL
I DO TO
HELP!



WITH DESTINY HANGING IN THE
BALANCE, CARL PUT A DARING PLAN
INTO FORCE! FIRST--

ESSENCE OF AMBERGRIS?
YES, WE HAVE IT--
BUT IT'S VERY
EXPENSIVE!

NEVER
MIND--
JUST FILL
THIS
ATOMIZER!



MEANWHILE, BILLY, HIDING HIS
TERROR, SPOKE TO THE
BOGEY MAN BRAVELY--

CARL AND
NANCY WANT
TO HELP US IN
OUR FIGHT
AGAINST
EVIL! THEY'RE
BRINGING
A LIST OF
BAD PEOPLE
TO YOU--
TONIGHT!

GOOD-- I
CAN USE
HELP! THE
WORLD HAS
GROWN VERY
WICKED!



THERE
THEY
ARE
NOW!

HMM--THEY SEEM
TOO EAGER
TO HELP ME!
I MUST
WATCH FOR
TRICKERY!



A FEW MINUTES LATER--

THIS HAD
BETTER WORK--
OR THE THREE
OF US WILL
BE COOKED!

HERE'S THE
LIST, MR.--
ER-- BOGEY
MAN!



AS THE MONSTER TOOK THE LIST, CARL
LEAPED INTO LIGHTNING ACTION--

I CAN'T SEE YOU, BUT I
CAN SEE THE LIST YOU'RE
HOLDING--AND THIS AMBER-
GRIS IS THE ONE THING
YOU CAN'T TAKE!



BUT FROM THE ATOMIZER, CAME--
NOTHING!

FOOL! YOU SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN THAT AMBER-
GRIS BECOMES SOLID IN COLD
WEATHER! NOW-- MEET THE
FATE OF ALL
EVIL ONES!



WITH CARL POISED ON THE BRINK OF DEATH,
NANCY RUSHED FORWARD, AND--

WAIT! I--
I CAN'T
STAND
TO HAVE
YOU
KILL
ANY
MORE!

NO, NANCY--
GO BACK?

STOP, WOMAN--
YOU CANNOT HELP
HIM NOW!



I MUST TELL
YOU-- SINCE I
FIRST SAW YOU,
I'VE GROWN TO--
LOVE YOU! PLEASE--
TAKE ME IN
YOUR ARMS,
MIGHTY ONE!

EH? IN TEN
THOUSAND YEARS,
NOTHING LIKE
THIS EVER
HAPPENED TO
ME! I--



THEN, AS THOUGH CHARMED BY
THE LOVELY GIRL, THE SUPER-
NATURAL GIANT RELAXED--
YOUR PRESENCE-- SOOTHES
ME... I FEEL-- SLEEPY--

GOOD-- THAT'S
HOW I'D
HOPE
YOU'D BE--
DARLING!



WHAT STRANGE CHANGE WAS
THIS? THE BOGEY MAN
SENSED IT, TRIED TO
AROUSE HIMSELF, BUT--

YOU WITCH--
YOU'VE
TRICKED
ME! I'LL--

HE'S--
SHRINK-
ING!

HERE'S
THE
SHELL--
LET'S PUT
HIM IN
IT!



THERE! HE'S
BOTTLED
UP TIGHT--
FOREVER!

I DIDN'T SEE
WHAT HAPPENED,
BUT I CAN
GUESS-- ONLY--
HOW DID
YOU DO IT?



ALL TEACHERS KNOW THAT OIL
OF AMBERGRIS IS USED TO
MAKE EXPENSIVE PERFUMES!
SO, WHEN WE CAME TONIGHT, I
WORE PLENTY OF MY BEST
PERFUME-- JUST IN CASE! THE
SMELL OF THE AMBERGRIS WAS
SO DISGUISED, THE POOR
BOGEY MAN DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT HIT
HIM!

MISS
GEER,
COME OUT-
SIDE A
MINUTE!
I WANT
TO TEACH
YOU
SOME-
THING!



YAAH!
TEACHER'S
PET!



THE
END

The UNDYING BRAIN



A MAN SITS IN A LONELY LABORATORY ATOP A DESOLATE MOUNTAIN, LIVING OUT THE LAST FLEETING SECONDS OF HIS LIFE! AND IN THE PAGES HE WRITES LIES A TRAGIC STORY OF AMBITION, HATE--AND MURDER! COME SHARE HIS TORTURED THOUGHTS IN THESE LAST FLEETING MOMENTS, BEFORE HIS FINGER TENSES AND THERE IS AN END AT LAST TO--THE UNDYING BRAIN!

THE EERIE TALE BEGAN BACK IN 1930, WHEN JOHN HARLEY, BRILLIANT YOUNG BRAIN SURGEON, ANSWERED A STRANGE MIDNIGHT CALL...



GLAD YOU'RE HERE AT LAST! THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN VERY ILL!

THIS WILL BE QUITE A FEATHER IN MY PROFESSIONAL CAP-- ATTENDING A CABINET MEMBER!



I HAVEN'T-- MUCH TIME LEFT, DOCTOR! YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE WHAT I TELL YOU! AND I MUST HAVE YOUR OATH--THAT WHAT WE SAY IN THIS ROOM WILL REMAIN SECRET!

OF COURSE! BUT I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND...



YOU WILL--WHEN I TELL YOU! BEFORE I DIE--YOU MUST OPERATE ON ME-- REMOVE MY BRAIN AND GIVE IT TO A MAN I WILL DESIGNATE! YOU UNDERSTAND--MY BRAIN MUST NOT DIE WITH ME!

SENSES REELING, JOHN HARLEY LISTENED AS THE DYING MAN UNFOLDED A WEIRD STORY...

MY BRAIN--ISN'T THE SAME ONE I WAS BORN WITH! I GOT IT--AS A YOUNG MAN--FROM ONE WHO WAS DYING JUST AS I AM NOW! HE PASSED IT ON--**AS I MUST DO!** TELL ME, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE LEGEND ABOUT THE-- **THE UNDYING BRAIN?**

I REMEMBER SOMETHING--BUT ISN'T IT JUST A STORY OUT OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY?



A LEGEND? HARDLY! THE BRAIN FIRST BELONGED TO A GREEK PHILOSOPHER NAMED AVATOS! ON HIS DEATHBED--

HASTEN! AVATOS CANNOT LIVE MUCH LONGER!

THIS IS A DARING THING WE DO! MAY IT PLEASE THE GODS THAT THE BRAIN OF OUR OLD FRIEND LIVES ON IN **ANOTHER BODY!**



THAT WAS IN 320 B.C.! AND THE BRAIN DIDN'T DIE! A HUNDRED YEARS LATER IT WAS IN THE POSSESSION OF A FAMOUS GREEK GENERAL...

THE ENEMY IS ROUTED--IT'S ANOTHER GREAT VICTORY! YOU'RE THE GREATEST SOLDIER IN THE WORLD!

THANKS TO **THE BRAIN!** IF THEY ONLY KNEW--HOW I HOLD THE WISDOM AND LEARNING OF ALMOST TWO CENTURIES WITHIN ME!



DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES--**THE BRAIN** WAS PASSED! IT WAS NEVER--ALLOWED TO DIE! IT PASSED FROM SOLDIERS TO KINGS, TO LAWYERS, STATESMEN, ALL MEN WHO **MADE HISTORY!** IF ONLY --I HAD TIME TO TELL YOU THE NAMES--OF THE FAMOUS MEN WHO HAVE OWNED IT...

INCREDIBLE! BUT SOMEHOW I **BELIEVE** HIM!



"I'LL NEVER FORGET THE NIGHT I RECEIVED THE BRAIN! I WAS A YOUNG MAN, JUST STARTING IN POLITICS..."

IT'S TRUE! IT'S HAPPENING! SOON HE'LL OPERATE ON ME AND I'LL HAVE THE **BRAIN--** TO USE AS LONG AS I LIVE!



YES, IT'S MADE ME POWERFUL, FAMOUS! NOW I MUST KEEP--THE PROMISE I MADE--TO PASS IT ON--TO A YOUNGER MAN! I'LL TELL YOU HIS NAME, DOCTOR-- JUST BEFORE THE OPERATION

YOU MEAN I'M TO DO THE OPERATION? TRANSFER THE **BRAIN** TO A MAN YOU SELECT?



YES! NOW HURRY--AND MAKE YOUR ARRANGEMENTS, HARLEY! THERE ISN'T--MUCH TIME! IF I DIE--BEFORE YOU OPERATE--THE BRAIN IS LOST FOREVER!



AND SO, TWO DAYS LATER, JOHN HARLEY SUCCESSFULLY PERFORMED THE MOST IMPORTANT OPERATION OF HIS CAREER!



I DID IT! AND I CAN DO WHAT EARLIER SURGEONS COULDN'T--KEEP THE BRAIN ALIVE WITH PLASMA! KEEP IT ALIVE--UNTIL--I DECIDE--



YES, THE SECRETARY'S DEAD! NOBODY TO KNOW--NOBODY TO ASK QUESTIONS--BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT THE BRAIN! I'VE GOT IT HERE IN THIS PACKAGE--READY FOR--

THAT NIGHT, IN HIS TINY LABORATORY--



I'LL HAVE TO ACT--EITHER GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MAN THE SECRETARY SELECTED TO HAVE THE BRAIN, EXPLAIN MATTERS AND PERFORM THE OPERATION AGAIN OR --OR--?



I WON'T DO IT! I'VE GOT AS MUCH RIGHT TO THE BRAIN AS ANYONE! I'VE EARNED IT! BUT --I CAN'T OPERATE ON MYSELF!

IT DIDN'T TAKE JOHN HARLEY LONG TO THINK OF A SCHEME...



I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU, JOHN! YOU NEGLECT ME TERRIBLY EVER SINCE WE GRADUATED FROM MEDICAL SCHOOL --AND NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU'RE SO ROMANTIC!

YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I CARE FOR YOU, MILDRED! BUT I'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD TILL JUST RECENTLY! BUT NOW--THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU!



MARRY YOU? I DO LOVE YOU --BUT A ROMANCE BETWEEN TWO SURGEONS--I JUST DON'T KNOW!

YOU'RE MORE THAN JUST A GREAT SURGEON, DEAR-- YOU'RE THE WOMAN I LOVE! PLEASE MARRY ME!



AND SO THEY WERE MARRIED--AND MILDRED'S LOVE ENABLED HARLEY'S STRANGE REQUEST!

BUT, JOHN, DARLING! IT'S SO--SO FRIGHTENING! SUPPOSE I FAILED AND...

YOU WON'T FAIL! AND THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE --I CAN'T KEEP THE BRAIN ALIVE MUCH LONGER! JUST THINK, MILDRED! WITH THAT BRAIN, I'LL BE THE GREATEST MAN IN THE WORLD!

AND SO, FINALLY, HARLEY CONVINCED HIS RELUCTANT WIFE! AS THEY APPROACHED HIS LONELY, MOUNTAIN-TOP LABORATORY--



THE OPERATION MUST BE TONIGHT, MILDRED! YOU WON'T LOSE YOUR NERVE!

NO, DARLING! I--I DON'T LIKE IT, BUT I'LL DO IT FOR YOUR SAKE! BUT I'M SO TERRIBLY FRIGHTENED--



THERE, MILDRED! THE RECORD I MADE FOR YOU! JUST LISTEN, DON'T GET FLUSTERED, AND EVERYTHING WILL GO PERFECTLY! YOU MUST SUCCEED!

Y-YES, JOHN!

"BE SURE YOUR CLAMPS ARE IN PLACE! NOW YOUR TOWEL CLIPS! THE DRILL SHOULD BE AT YOUR LEFT AND..."

GO ON A BARREN MOUNTAIN TOP, WHILE THE WIND WHISTLED EERILY THROUGH STARK PINES, A VALIANT WOMAN DID THE BIDDING OF THE MAN SHE LOVED! SHE PERFORMED ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT OF ALL OPERATIONS-- WHILE A MECHANICAL VOICE GRATED ON AND ON...



ALL R-RIGHT SO FAR!

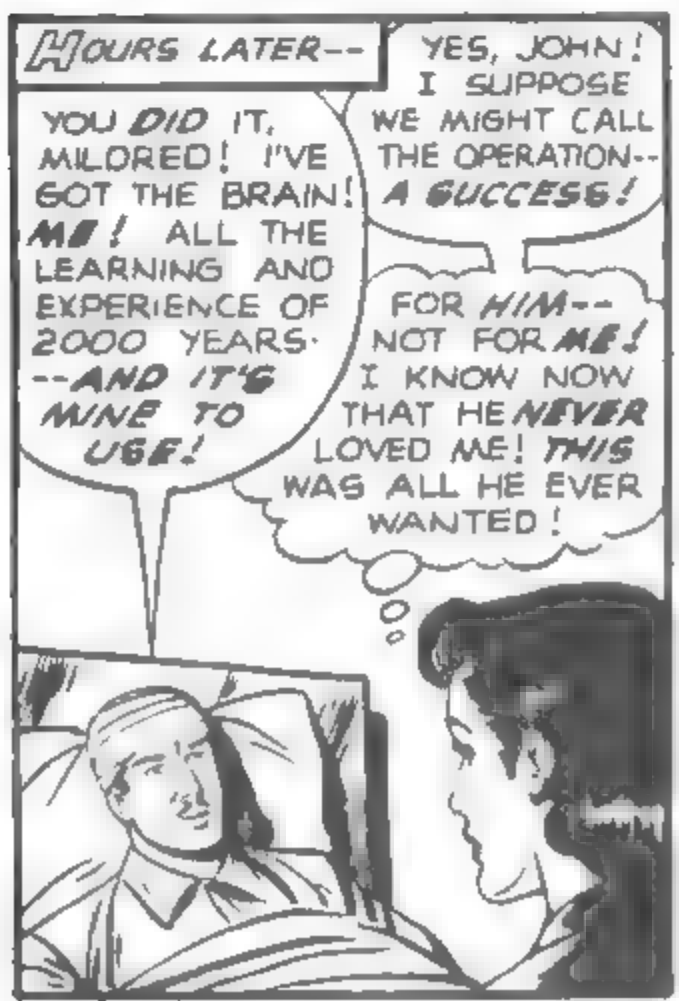
THE INCISION MUST BE LIGHT, BUT FIRM! ARRANGE YOUR SPONGES AROUND THE TONSURE! READY WITH THE TREPAN... NOW...

WORKING LIKE AN AUTOMATON, MILDRED HARLEY WAS SOON READY TO PLACE THE CENTURIES-OLD BRAIN IN THE SKULL CAVITY OF HER HUSBAND...



HALF THROUGH! BUT I'M SO--TIRED! MUSTN'T --MAKE A MISTAKE NOW!

THIS IS THE CRITICAL POINT! BE CAREFUL IN HANDLING THE BRAIN! ABOVE ALL, LET NOTHING PUNCTURE THE DURA MATER...



HOURS LATER--

YOU DID IT, MILDRED! I'VE GOT THE BRAIN! ME! ALL THE LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE OF 2000 YEARS--AND IT'S MINE TO USE!

YES, JOHN! I SUPPOSE WE MIGHT CALL THE OPERATION-- A SUCCESS!

FOR HIM-- NOT FOR ME! I KNOW NOW THAT HE NEVER LOVED ME! THIS WAS ALL HE EVER WANTED!



A MONTH PASSED--JOHN HARLEY WAS ALMOST WELL...

AT LAST! NOW WATCH ME MAKE THE WORLD ROLL OVER AND PLAY DEAD! WITH MY BRAIN, I CAN DO ANYTHING--BE ANYTHING!

HE'S-- CHANGED ALREADY! LIKE A STRANGER! I--I'M AFRAID OF HIM SOME-TIMES!



YES--AND MILDRED HARLEY GREW STEADILY MORE AFRAID!

LEAVE ME ALONE! THE ARMY NEEDS THIS NEW STUDY OF LOGISTICS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE --AND I'M THE ONLY MAN THAT REMEMBERS HOW CAESAR SOLVED A SIMILAR PROBLEM! NOW GET OUT!

BUT YOU ARE A SURGEON, JOHN! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? YOU'RE TRYING TO DO TOO MANY THINGS LATELY!

THE YEARS WENT BY AND THE NAME OF JOHN HARLEY WAS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD! THE MAN WHO KNEW EVERYTHING--WHO COULD DO ANYTHING BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE...



AND THEN ONE DAY, AFTER ALMOST TWENTY YEARS...

THE PRESIDENTRY IS YOURS FOR THE TAKING, MR. HARLEY! WILL YOU BE OUR PARTY'S CANDIDATE?

I ACCEPT, GENTLEMEN! I ALWAYS KNEW I WOULD BE PRESIDENT SOME DAY! AFTER ALL--WHO IS BETTER FITTED FOR THE JOB?



THAT NIGHT,

I'M TO BE PRESIDENT AT LAST! THE ELECTION IS ONLY A FORMALITY, OF COURSE! I HAVE GREAT PLANS FOR THE COUNTRY--FOR THE WORLD!

JOHN--NO! I CAN'T LET YOU TAKE A POSITION THAT CAN SWAY NATIONS! YOU CAN'T EVER BE PRESIDENT!



WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MILDRED? OF COURSE I'LL BE PRESIDENT! WITH MY BRAIN...

YES, YOUR BRAIN--YOUR MAD BRAIN! YOU'RE A BRILLIANT MADMAN--MAD WITH IN-SOLENCE, PRIDE, SUPERIORITY! I KNOW, JOHN, BECAUSE I...



IT WAS A FATEFUL SENTENCE--A SENTENCE MILDRED HARLEY NEVER FINISHED!

NO! DON'T--AHHHHH!

HOW DARE YOU? YOU'RE JEALOUS OF THE BRAIN, THAT IS ALL! I'LL KILL YOU--KILL YOU!



WHAT HAVE I DONE--WHY COULDN'T I STOP MYSELF? IT COULDN'T BE WHAT SHE SAID--I'M THE SANEST MAN IN THE WORLD! BUT--BUT I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF HER BODY--AND I THINK I KNOW NOW!



AND SO THE WORLD'S GREATEST THINKER RETURNED TO HIS LONG-DESERTED LABORATORY--

JUST THE PLACE TO DO WHAT I'VE GOT TO! STRANGE TO THINK THAT IT WAS JUST TWENTY YEARS AGO, ON THIS SPOT, THAT I FIRST GOT THE BRAIN!



STRANGE, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER THINGS AS WELL AS I USED TO! THAT FORMULA FOR ACID SHOULD BE HERE SOMEWHERE! IT DOESN'T LEAVE A TRACE OF FLESH OR BONE...

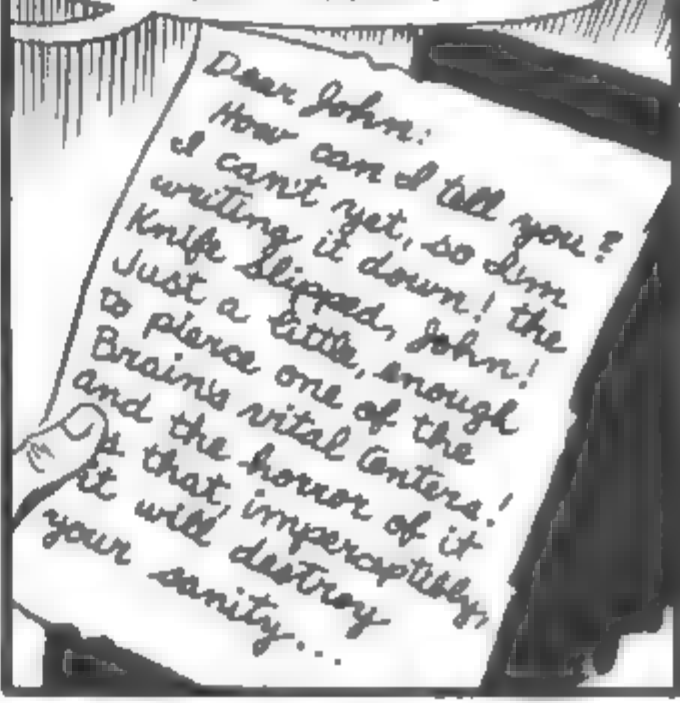


WHAT'S THIS? A NOTE IN MILDRED'S HANDWRITING--SOMETHING ABOUT THE OPERATION! I WONDER...



SLOWLY, AS JOHN HARLEY READ THE FADED SCRIPT--HIS BLOOD CHILLED WITHIN HIM!

THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANT WHEN SHE SAID I MUST NEVER BE PRESIDENT! SHE KNEW-- SHE KNEW--



Dear John:
How can I tell you?
I can't yet, so I'm
writing it down! the
knife slipped, John!
Just a little, enough
to pierce one of the
Brains vital Centers!
and the horror of it
is that, imperceptibly,
it will destroy
your sanity...

I'VE GOT ENOUGH MENTALITY LEFT TO KNOW THAT YOU WERE RIGHT, MILDRED--RIGHT! YES, I'M GOING MAD--SO MAD THAT I CAN NO LONGER RESTRAIN MY LUST FOR POWER! IF I LIVE, THE WORLD WILL SUFFER FROM MY AMBITION--SO THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO!



...SO THAT IS MY STORY, AND THE STORY OF THE BRAIN! I STOLE IT--AND I'M PAYING FOR MY CRIME!



I must do this before I change my mind, while I still have my sanity and decency enough left! the Brain, gone wrong, would create such a monster as never lived a alone could wreck all civilization! It must be destroyed immediately!



BANG!

The End...

THE GHOST'S REVENGE!

WHEN A LIVING MORTAL AND A DEPARTED SPIRIT ENTER INTO A BARGAIN, THERE CAN BE NO BACKING OUT... BUT CURLY ADAMS THOUGHT OTHERWISE! HE HAD ALL THE ANGLES FIGURED... HE WAS A KILLER, COOL AND CALCULATING... AND HE WAS BRAZENLY CONFIDENT THAT HE COULD EASILY ESCAPE... THE GHOST'S REVENGE!



LATE ONE NIGHT, ALONG A MAIN HIGHWAY...

IT'S NO USE, ADAMS... WE'LL NEVER GET AWAY FROM THEM COPPERS!

RELAX... I KNOW A TURN-OFF UP AHEAD WHERE WE'LL DITCH 'EM GOOD!



MOMENTS LATER...

YOU DID IT... WE'VE THROWN 'EM OFF!

MAYBE NOW YOU'LL BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU THAT I'VE ALWAYS GOT AN ANGLE! WE'LL BE LEAVIN' THE CAR IN A COUPLA MINUTES... I WANNA SHOW YOU SOMETHIN'!



TAKING A NARROW DIRT PATH, ADAMS LED THE WAY TO THE EDGE OF A CLEARING---

THERE IT IS, GAINES... **THE PERFECT HIDE-OUT!** I SPOTTED THIS PLACE ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO AND FIGURED IT WOULD COME IN HANDY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY! WE'LL HOLE UP HERE TILL THINGS COOL OFF!

I... I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF IT, ADAMS! IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

MAYBE YOU'D LIKE A NICE COZY JAIL INSTEAD? REMEMBER, GAINES... WE'RE WANTED FOR ARMED ROBBERY! GUYS ON THE LAM CAN'T BE FUSSY! NOW WHAT IS IT GONNA BE? ARE YOU WITH ME, OR DO WE GO IT SEPARATE?

N... NO... I'D NEVER MAKE IT ON MY OWN! I'LL DO WHAT YOU SAY!

NOW YOU'RE TALKIN' SENSE! BESIDES, HAVE I SLIPPED UP YET? DON'T I ALWAYS HAVE AN ANGLE?

YEAH, YOU'RE SMART, ADAMS... I'LL STICK!

A SHORT WHILE LATER, INSIDE THE OLD HOUSE---

AS SOON AS I GET THIS FIRE GOING WE'LL FEEL---HEY, WHAT'S EATIN' YOU?

TH... THAT SMOKE... OVER THERE IN THE CORNER!

LOOK! SOMETHIN'S TAKIN' SHAPE!

STEP ASIDE, BUSTER... WHATEVER IT IS, I'M GONNA BLAST IT!

WITH STUNNING SPEED, THE WIPS OF SMOKE MATERIALIZED INTO A SPECTRAL FORM! THE FLESHLESS LIPS MOVED, AND THE ROOM ECHOED TO A HOLLOW VOICE---

PUT ASIDE YOUR GUN... IT IS USELESS AGAINST ME! BESIDES, I COME NOT TO HARM YOU... BUT TO ASK A FAVOR! GRANT IT... AND YOU WILL BE WELL REWARDED!

DON'T DO IT, ADAMS! IT'S SOME KIND OF---

SHUT UP, AND LET THE CREEP TALK! I'M ALWAYS READY TO LISTEN TO A PROPOSITION... AS LONG AS THERE'S SOMETHING IN IT FOR CURLY ADAMS!

MY NAME IS **ORVILLE WILKES**! SIX YEARS AGO I WAS **MURDERED** IN THIS HOUSE, POISONED BY MY WIFE FOR MY INSURANCE MONEY! FOR SIX LONG YEARS MY SPIRIT HAS WANDERED RESTLESSLY, WHILE SHE LIVES ON---ENJOYING HER ILL-GOTTEN GAIN! UNTIL SHE **PAYS** FOR HER CRIME, I CAN NEVER FIND ETERNAL PEACE!



SHE MUST'VE BEEN PLENTY SMART TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER!

YES, SHE WAS CLEVER---AND EXTREMELY PATIENT! SHE POISONED ME SO SLOWLY THAT EVEN THE DOCTORS WERE MISLED! SHE EVEN FOOLED ME, BUT AT THE VERY END I DISCOVERED HER TREACHERY!



IN MY PRESENT FORM, I CANNOT BRING MY WIFE TO JUSTICE! THAT IS WHY I NEED THE HELP OF A **MORTAL**! GO TO THE POLICE---TELL THEM ABOUT MY MURDER AND DEMAND THAT THE CASE BE RE-OPENED! ONCE MY WIFE IS FACED WITH THIS NEW CHARGE, SHE WILL BREAK DOWN AND CONFESS---OF THAT I AM CERTAIN!

OKAY---SUPPOSE I DO? WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?



BEHIND THIS PANEL IS \$5,000! I HID IT THERE A FEW DAYS BEFORE MY DEATH, KNOWING THAT IT WOULDN'T FALL INTO HER HANDS! THE MONEY IS YOURS---IF YOU PROMISE TO DO AS I ASKED!

IF THE DOUGH IS THERE LIKE YOU SAY, YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A DEAL!



MOMENTS LATER, WHEN ADAMS TORE AWAY THE THIN PANELING---

IT'S HERE ALL RIGHT--**FIVE THOUSAND BUCKS!**

THEN YOU WILL DO AS I SAY---YOU MUST! WASTE NO TIME---TAKE THE SOUTH ROAD FROM HERE TO THE TOWN CALLED CLARKSVILLE! THAT IS WHERE SHE LIVES! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO---**FAREWELL!**



LOOK, GAINES---HE'S DOIN' A REAL FADE-OUT! HOW ABOUT THAT?

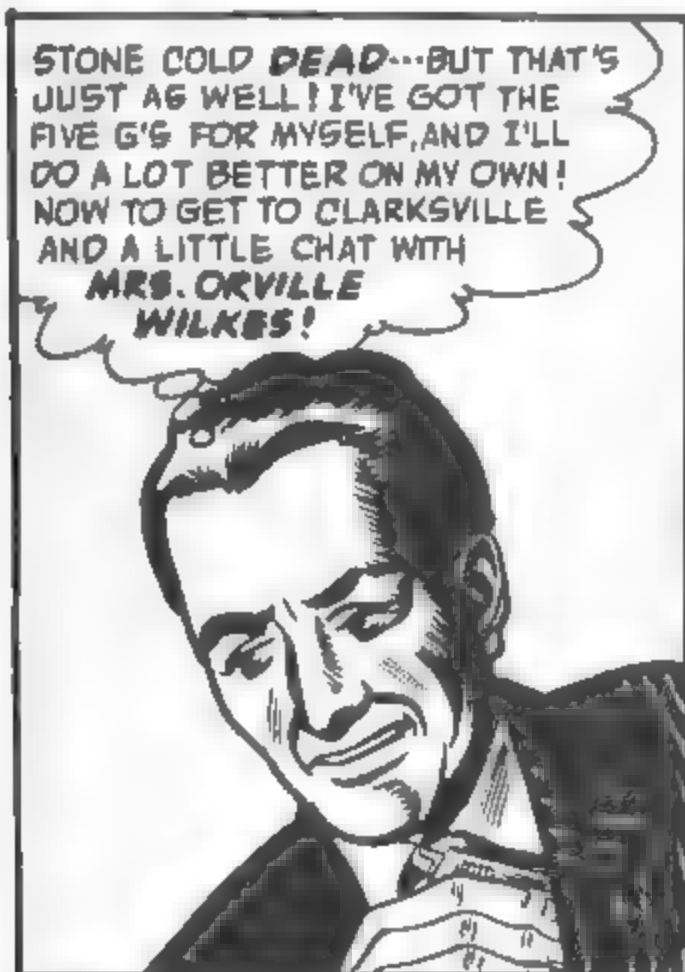
CUT THE COMEDY, ADAMS---WHAT ABOUT THAT PROMISE YOU MADE HIM? YOU KNOW WE CAN'T GO TO THE POLICE!



THAT WAS ONLY A **STALL**, STUPID! OF COURSE I'M NOT GOING TO THE POLICE, BUT THERE'S NO REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T VISIT THAT SPOOK'S WIFE!

WHAT?





RIGHT NOW I'M KINDA ANXIOUS TO MAKE THE BORDER!
I NEED A FAST CAR AND A CHANGE OF CLOTHES! I'D
APPRECIATE IT IF **YOU'D** DO THE SHOPPING FOR
ME!

I---I UNDERSTAND! BUT I'LL
DO EVEN **MORE**! SUPPOSE
I GO WITH YOU?



I'M NOT THE NOSEY TYPE, BUT IT LOOKS
AS IF **BOTH** OF US WOULD DO BETTER
BY GETTING OUT OF THE COUNTRY!
MY HUSBAND WAS AN OLD
FOOL AND BORED ME
STIFF! **YOU'RE** MORE
MY TYPE!

YOU CAN
SAY THAT
AGAIN,
BABY! SURE,
WE COULD
HIT IT OFF
SWELL!



LATE THAT SAME EVENING---

WELL, EVERYTHING'S SET HANDSOME!
THE NEW CAR WILL BE DELIVERED IN
THE MORNING, ALONG WITH THE
OTHER STUFF! BY TOMORROW
NIGHT WE'LL BE ON OUR
WAY!

NICE GOING,
KARIN--- YOU'RE
PLAYING BALL
A LOT BETTER
THAN I THOUGHT!



WE'RE GONNA GO PLACES,
US TWO! YOU STICK WITH
ME AN ---

N---NO!
LOOK!



IT---IT'S MY HUSBAND
---**ORVILLE!**
H---HE'LL **KILL**
US!

THIS SPOOK
CAN'T HARM A
FLEA, BABY---HE
TOLD ME SO HIM-
SELF! THAT'S WHY
HE HAD **ME** COME
AFTER YOU! ISN'T THAT
RIGHT, SMOKEY?



THERE IS NO NEED FOR
ME TO HURT YOU---EVEN
IF I COULD! IT HAS BEEN
DONE FOR ME---
IN A FEW MINUTES YOU
WILL BE **DEAD**!

ME?
...DEAD?



YOU FORGOT ABOUT **HER**,
YOU FOOL! SHE'S **POISONED**
YOUR DRINK---PLANNED TO
KILL YOU, JUST AS SHE
MURDERED ME!

POISONED
...MY...





YOU DIRTY, SNEAKIN' WITCH! POISON ME, EH? WELL, YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT!

WAIT! YOU MUSTN'T ---OH--HH!

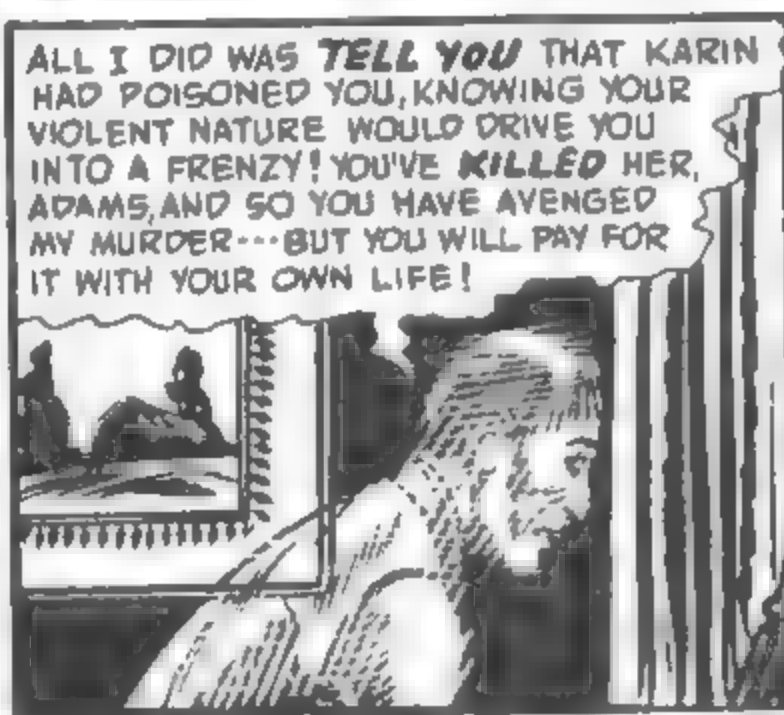
BANG! BANG!



Y---YOU'VE GOTTA HELP ME! MY THROAT'S BURNIN' LIKE FIRE! I---I DON'T WANT TO DIE! HELP ME!



YOU WILL DIE, ADAMS. BUT NOT FROM THE WINE! THERE WAS NO POISON IN YOUR DRINK---ONLY THE POISON IN YOUR EVIL BRAIN!



ALL I DID WAS TELL YOU THAT KARIN HAD POISONED YOU, KNOWING YOUR VIOLENT NATURE WOULD DRIVE YOU INTO A FRENZY! YOU'VE KILLED HER, ADAMS, AND SO YOU HAVE AVENGED MY MURDER---BUT YOU WILL PAY FOR IT WITH YOUR OWN LIFE!



N-NO! I'VE BEEN TRICKED!



LISTEN---FOOTSTEPS ON THE STAIRS! IT'S THE POLICE, ADAMS---THEY'VE HEARD THE SHOTS! WHEN THEY ARRIVE I WILL BE GONE! I CAN NOW REST IN ETERNAL PEACE!

WAIT! COME BACK---COME BACK!

BANG! BANG!



MOMENTS LATER, WHEN THE POLICE BURST IN---

SHE'S DEAD, ALL RIGHT! BOOK HIM---FOR MURDER!



HE MADE ME DO IT! IT WAS THE GHOST! HE TRICKED ME! YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME---YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME!

SURE, BUSTER! JUST TELL IT TO THE JURY!

The Evil Secret Of

BLACK HOLLOW



Only stark ruins were supposed to mark the spot where **THE EVIL ONE** held sway-- ruins that thrust against the moonlight like a jagged warning! But the moment came when a wizened figure hobbled toward death in the shadows-- and it meant a night of **TERROR IN BLACK HOLLOW!**

ONE MOONLIT NIGHT-- ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF AN ISOLATED VILLAGE --

WE'VE PICKED A RESTFUL SPOT FOR OUR VACATION, ELSA-- TOO RESTFUL! HOW ABOUT SNOOPING AROUND THAT PLACE EVERYONE AVOIDS-- **BLACK HOLLOW?**

PLEASE, DON-- I'VE MADE INQUIRIES-- **AND IT SOUNDS LIKE A SPOT WE'D BETTER LEAVE ALONE!**

SEVENTY YEARS AGO, A STRANGE HOUSE STOOD UP THERE-- **BLACK HOLLOW HALL!** THE PEOPLE HERE-- ABOUTS DREADED THE PLACE-- BUT ONE NIGHT, A LAD NAMED BELFORD WANDERED BLINDLY AROUND THE CURSED HOLLOW! AT MIDNIGHT, THE HOUSE COLLAPSED WITH A ROAR THAT WAS HEARD FOR MILES --

-- AND **BELFORD NEVER RETURNED!**

IT'S AN INTERESTING STORY, ELSA-- BUT I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU HOW EASY IT IS TO DISPROVE! SUPPOSE WE **SEE** IF THERE ARE ANY RUINS UP AT **BLACK HOLLOW!**



MINUTES LATER-- IN A HUSH THAT SEEMS TO DEEPEN AT THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS--

THEN-- SPRAWLED LIKE A HUGE SKELETON IN THE GREEN HALF-LIGHT--

DON, I'VE TAKEN MANY A LONELY WALK-- BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT-- IT'S CHARGED WITH SOME KIND OF DREADFUL, UNNAMED FORCE!

NONSENSE-- YOU CAN'T FEEL SOMETHING IN-VISIBLE! WE'LL LOOK BEHIND THAT UNDER-BRUSH JUST TO SHOW YOU THAT THERE'S NOTHING UP HERE-- AND THEN TURN BACK!

WELL-- WHAT DO YOU THINK NOW?

OKAY, THERE WAS A HOUSE IN THE HOLLOW-- BUT THAT DOESN'T PROVE ANYTHING SUPERNATURAL!

SUDDENLY-- SHRILL AS THE PIPING OF A NIGHT BIRD IN THE SHADOWS--

VOICES-- VOICES!
HUMANS HAVE--
COME TO
BLACK HOLLOW HALL!

GOOD HEAVENS--
THERE'S SOMETHING
INSIDE THE RUINS!

SLOWLY-- GROPING FROM THE DEPTHS--

I HAVE WAITED--THOUSANDS OF NIGHTS-- HERE IN BLACK HOLLOW! WAITED FOR SOME-ONE ALIVE-- TO GUIDE ME AWAY-- FROM THIS LAIR OF THE EVIL ONE!

DON-- I CAN'T FACE THAT THING! LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE!

HOLD IT, ELSA-- IT'S JUST A HARMLESS OLD MAN-- EXTREMELY ANCIENT-- AND BLIND!

NO-- NO-- DON'T GO AWAY! IF I DIE HERE-- THE EVIL ONE TRIUMPHS!

GREAT GUNS! WATCH OUT-- YOU'RE AT THE EDGE!

AS DON RUSHES FORWARD--

CRASH!



AN INSTANT LATER -- LOOMING STARKLY IN THE ECHOING DARKNESS--

HERE YOU HAVE DIED-- AND HERE YOUR BODY WILL STAY! TO THE VAULT-- WHERE THE OTHER DEAD HAVE GATHERED!

GREAT GUNS! IT'S THE FIEND THAT PRESIDES OVER BLACK HOLLOW HALL -- THE EVIL ONE!

HUMANS! I THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE TO WAIT-- BUT I SHALL HAVE NEW VICTIMS THIS VERY NIGHT!

DON, THIS IS WHAT BELFORD TRIED TO FORESTALL -- AND NOW IT'S TOO LATE!



OH!!
YE GODS-- SHE'S FAINTED!

HA HA HA! A PROMISING START-- FOR THE HOURS OF CLUTCHING PANIC THAT LIE AHEAD!

FOR CENTURIES, UNSUSPECTING HUMANS HAVE BEEN LURED HERE -- TO DIE OF TERROR! THEIR UNBURIED BODIES ARE ARRAYED IN A HIDDEN VAULT -- CREATING THE ATMOSPHERE OF DEATH THAT KEEPS ME ALIVE! BELFORD WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT-- CAUSING BLACK HOLLOW HALL TO CRUMBLE TO THE GROUND-- BUT READY TO RISE LIKE A TOMB OF EVIL THE MOMENT HE DIED AMONG THE RUINS!



THAT'S WHY BELFORD WANTED US TO LEAVE BEFORE HE DIED! BUT YOU HAVEN'T GOT ME TERRIFIED, CREEP-- WE'RE GETTING OUT NOW!

FOOL, YOU WILL FIND ALL RETREAT BARRED BY A FORCE NO HUMAN CAN BREACH-- THE IN-VISIBLE BARRIER OF TERROR! SHE HAS FELT IT ALREADY-- AND THERE IS ENOUGH AHEAD

THROUGH THE FEAR-RIDDEN HALLS-- SHROUDED BY THE MEMORY OF DOOM --

BEFORE I EVEN TRY TO DEAL WITH THAT FIEND-- I'VE GOT TO FIND A PLACE OF SAFETY FOR ELSA! COULD BE I'M MORE PANICKY THAN I THINK-- BUT FOR SOME REASON-- HER BODY SEEMS TO BE GETTING LIGHTER!

AS DON TURNS INTO A MOONLIT CHAMBER--

GOOD LORD -- ELSA!



IN A FRENZY BEYOND EITHER FEAR OR RAGE--

I'VE GOT TO FIND THE EVIL ONE! IF I HAVE TO RIP THIS PLACE APART STONE BY STONE -- I'M GOING TO SAVE ELSA FROM THE BLIGHT THAT FIEND HAS INFLECTED!



DEEP INSIDE THE BROODING HEART OF BLACK HOLLOW HALL --

THERE'S SOMETHING BEYOND THAT DOOR--I CAN SENSE IT! AND IF IT'S THE LAIR OF THE EVIL ONE-- I'M READY FOR A SHOWDOWN!



THEN--

YE GODS-- IT'S THE VAULT OF THE DEAD!



FROM THE DARK NICHES-- EACH WITH ITS GAUNT AND SHRIVELED FORM--

WE HAVE NO GRAVE, WE HAVE NO BIER! BUT LET TWO MORTALS ENTER HERE, THEY'LL END THE CURSE WITH HUMAN BREATH! AND DOOM THIS ATMOSPHERE OF DEATH!



ONE THING'S SURE--THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT HUMANS UNLESS ELSA IS ALIVE! THAT HORRIBLE CHANGE SHE UNDERWENT WAS JUST A BLACK SPELL CAST BY THE EVIL ONE-- TO TRICK ME INTO LEAVING HER ALONE AND UNPROTECTED!



A MOMENT LATER--

DARLING-- THANK HEAVEN I'VE COME TO! IT WAS LIKE A TRANCE IN WHICH I IMAGINED MYSELF TO BE AN OLD WOMAN READY FOR DEATH -- AND I WILL BE-- IF I HAVE ANOTHER SHOCK LIKE THAT!



THAT'S JUST WHAT THE EVIL ONE HAD IN MIND, ELSA! HE'S STALKING ALONG THE CORRIDOR-- BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW I'VE LEARNED SOMETHING THAT CAN SPELL HIS DOWNFALL!



IN A FRANTIC RUSH--

WE'VE GOT TO ENTER THE VAULT OF THE DEAD, HONEY! YOU'RE GOING TO KNOW A NEW KIND OF HORROR-- BUT REMEMBER, WE'RE WITHIN MINUTES OF SAFETY-- AT MIDNIGHT!



HA-- WAIT! I AM READY TO UNVEIL A SIGHT THAT WILL SHRIVEL YOUR VERY SOULS IN A MATTER OF SECONDS!



LOOK! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE UNBURIED DEAD NOW?

GOOD LORD-- THEY'RE FIENDS!

DON, NO-- NO! DON'T ASK ME TO GO INTO THAT INFERNO OF HORROR!

I WAS FOOL ENOUGH TO THINK THAT BOTH THE EVIL ONE AND BLACK HOLLOW HALL COULD BE DESTROYED FOREVER-- BUT NO AMOUNT OF WILL POWER CAN WITHSTAND THIS!

HA-HA! NOW YOU KNOW HOW DOZENS OF OTHERS FELT-- AT THE VERY BRINK OF THE JABBERING PANIC THAT KILLED THEM!

COME ON, ELSA-- IT'S JUST ANOTHER TRICK! THOSE BODIES MERELY APPEAR DIFFERENT-- TO PREVENT US FROM ENTERING!

THE UNBURIED DEAD ARE CHANGING AGAIN, HONEY! AND WHILE THEY MAY BE A DREADFUL SPECTACLE-- THEY'RE NOT EVIL!

SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO THE ATMOSPHERE OF DEATH! IT HAS BEEN CONTAMINATED-- BY THE BREATH OF LIFE!

IT DOESN'T MATTER ANY LONGER IF YOU DIE OF TERROR-- JUST AS LONG AS YOU DON'T REMAIN ALIVE-- BRINGING ME CLOSER TO DESTRUCTION WITH EVERY BREATH YOU DRAW!

DON-- HE'S GOING TO KILL US!

CRACK!
YOU MIGHT HAVE GUESSED HOW EASY IT WILL BE! I HAVE A STRENGTH FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE-- AND IT CAN REND YOU TO SHREDS IN A FLASH!

YOU SHOULD HAVE TRIED IT SOONER, GHOUL-- BECAUSE NOW IT'S TOO LATE!

NEVER-- NEVER!

NOT EVEN WHEN WE'VE REACHED MIDNIGHT-- WITHOUT SUCCUMBING TO TERROR? BLACK HOLLOW HALL IS READY TO TOPPLE AGAIN-- AND THIS TIME YOU'LL BE TRAPPED IN THE RUINS FOR ALL TIME!

AS THE BUILDING SHUDDERS-- AS IF
OVERBURDENED BY DARKNESS--



WE'RE THE FIRST HUMANS EVER
TO VENTURE INTO THE VAULT
OF THE DEAD, ELGA-- AND
IT ENDED THE ATMOSPHERE
OF DEATH THAT KEPT THE
EVIL ONE ALIVE!

BUT WHAT ABOUT
US? THE STAIR-
WAY'S COLLAPSED--
IT'S OUR ONLY
WAY OUT!



THEN-- IN A GLOW HAZED BY
THE SWIRLING DUST OF
DISSOLUTION--

GOOD HEAVENS,
DON-- LOOK!



IT'S BELFORD'S
GHOST! I CAN'T
BEAR THE SIGHT OF
ANOTHER PHANTOM,
DON-- I'D RATHER
DIE UNDER TONS
OF MASONRY THAN
UNDERGO THIS
ENDLESS TERROR!

BUT IF BELFORD
TRIED TO HELP US
WHILE HE WAS
ALIVE-- WHY BE
AFRAID OF HIS
GHOST? GET A
GRIP ON YOUR-
SELF-- IT HAS
A GOOD REASON
FOR BEING HERE!



MAYBE YOU'RE
RIGHT, DON! ALL
THE OTHER NICHES
ARE JUST BIG
ENOUGH TO HOLD
A BODY-- BUT
THIS ONE'S
DEEP!

IT'S A TUN-
NEL! BEL-
FORD'S GHOST
APPEARED TO
SHOW US HOW
HE GROPED
HIS WAY TO
SAFETY--
SEVENTY
YEARS
AGO!



THEN-- WITH THE FINAL ROAR OF UPHEAVAL
MOUNTING LIKE A TREMENDOUS WAVE...



DON'T LOOK
BACK! WE'VE
GOT TO MAKE
IT-- BEFORE
THE SHAFT
GIVES WAY!

SECONDS LATER--

DARLING--
THERE'S THE
END OF
BLACK
HOLLOW
HALL!

IT'S HAPPENED BEFORE, ELGA--
BUT THIS TIME IT MEANS THE
END OF THE EVIL ONE! THERE'S
NO LONGER A FIENDISH SPIRIT
THAT CAN LURK AMONG THE
RUINS-- WAITING FOR THE
CURSED WALLS
TO RISE!



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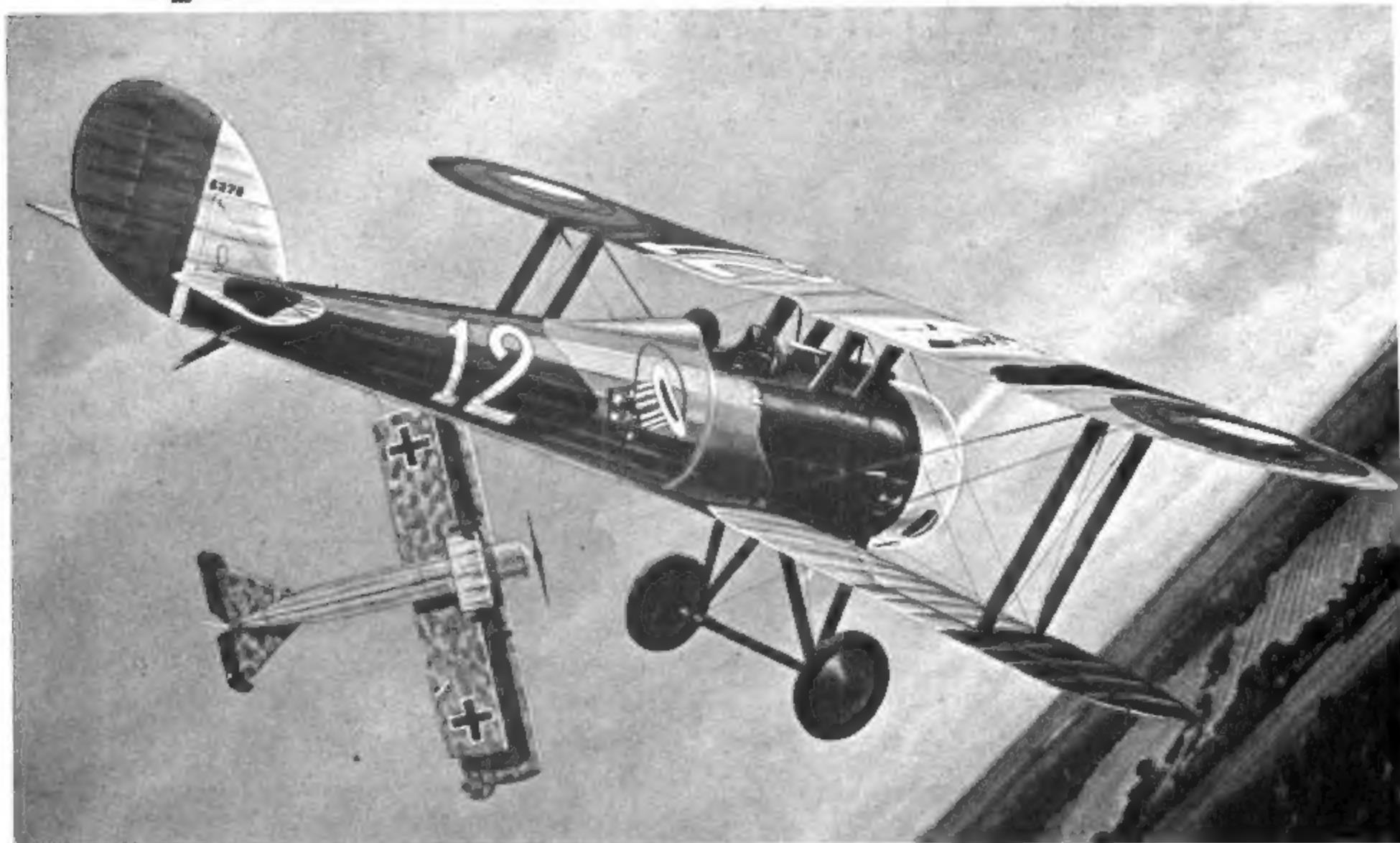
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